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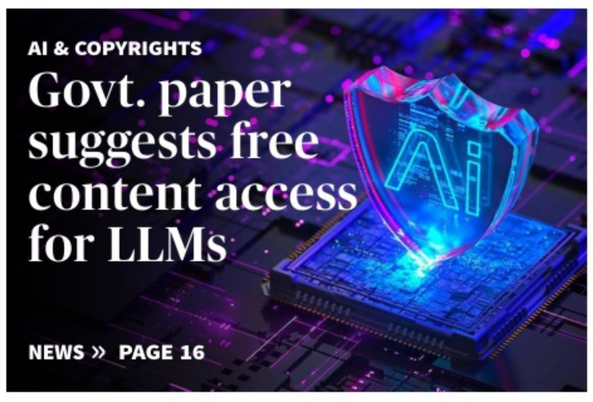

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Charting an agenda on the right to health

Delhi convention offers a unique platform

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Hardik shines as India wins the first T20I

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NEARBY

CM writes to PM on plight of toor farmers

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing "alarm on behalf of the toor dal growers of Karnataka, whose economic survival is ar risk due to procedural delay at the Central level". » PAGE 10

AI-based system to monitor road safety soon

BENGALURU
The Transport Department is preparing to launch an AI-based Smart Enforcement System to electronically monitor road safety and penalise violations. » PAGE 2

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Citizenship under CAA only if claims verified: SC

Act provides rights to persecuted religious minorities, but their claims must clear official review, says court after petitioner flags panic among refugees from neighbouring nations after SIR began

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said conferment of rights associated with Indian citizenship to people claiming to be religious minorities who fled persecution from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh and protected under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, would be wholly dependent on whether their claims turn out to be true.

The court said that though the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, had introduced changes in favour of granting "enforceable rights" to persecuted religious minorities from these countries, every such claim would have to be enquired into and verified by the authorities.

A file picture of Bangladeshi Hindus arriving at a village in West Bengal. REUTERS

Fear of statelessness

Key issues raised in the petition regarding persecuted minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan

- The delay in issuing citizenship certificates, combined with the non-recognition of acknowledgment receipts during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR), has created a "serious constitutional crisis"
- The affected persons — recognised by Parliament as deserving protection and integration — are now exposed to the risk of statelessness, social exclusion, and disenfranchisement
- The acknowledgment receipt generated upon online submission of an application for a certificate of naturalisation must be treated as valid provisional proof of pending citizenship determination, at least for the SIR

The oral observations from a Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi came on a petition filed by an NGO, Aatmadeep.

The NGO submitted that these groups, especially those who had fled Bangladesh and were living in West Bengal, were petrified that the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls would render them stateless.

Chief Justice Kant said the conferment of Indian citizenship was not a given for CAA applicants. They should fulfil certain conditions, and in due course, could apply for inclusion in the voters' list, the Chief Justice said.

The court, however, issued notice to the Election Commission and the Centre, seeking a response. It posted the case for hearing next week.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

State drafts law on menstrual leave

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/BELAGAVI

Even as the High Court is set to hear arguments on behalf of the State on Wednesday on its November 20 notification on menstrual leave, the State government has readied a Bill to give legislative teeth to the provisions.

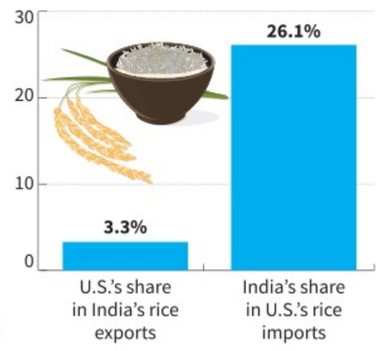
In what is the first-ever such legislation, the State government has drafted the Karnataka Women Well Being Leave Bill, 2025. It provides menstrual leave not only for working women in the formal sector, but also for female students in educational institutions, transgenders, ASHAs, anganwadi, and midday meal personnel, and those working in mines. The Bill is expected to be introduced in the ongoing legislature session.

DETAILED REPORTS » PAGE 10

Trump mulls tariffs on rice from India

Differing impacts

The chart compares India's share in the U.S.'s rice imports and the U.S.'s share in India's rice exports in 2024 (in %)



SOURCE: UN COMTRADE

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Days before a U.S. team of negotiators is to visit India to discuss tariffs, U.S. President Donald Trump has hinted at imposing further tariffs on India, this time on rice, to prevent it from "dumping" rice in the U.S.

However, an analysis of trade data between the two countries shows that such tariffs would hurt the U.S. far more than India since only about 3% of India's rice exports go to the U.S., whereas Indian rice makes up more than one-fourth of the quantity imported into the U.S.

In other words, for rice, the U.S. is not a major export destination for India, but India is a major import source for the U.S.

The Hindu had recently reported that a U.S. team of negotiators led by Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Rick Switzer would be in New Delhi on December 10-12 to discuss tariffs. The U.S. has currently imposed a total of 50% tariffs on imports from India.

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Making a Starc difference to the Ashes

During the second Test versus England in Brisbane, the 35-year-old Australian pacer surpassed Akram's tally of 414 Test wickets, the most by a left-arm quick; he went on to win his third successive Player-of-the-Match award, a testament to his skill, fitness and commitment to the longest format of the game

Vivek Krishnan

To those of us who watched cricket in the 1980s and 90s, Wasim Akram appeared to be a magician in the disguise of a fast bowler. So spellbinding was the left-armer's artistry, hooping the ball in either direction at will and bewitching opponents and onlookers alike.

The poetry of his bowling action was symbolised by a scurrying burst into his delivery stride and a quick-arm release that gave the batters little clue of their impending doom. Once the ball - new or old -- left his hand, with the seam canted perfectly to procure swing, it would invariably do some mischief to hoodwink the batter at the opposite end.

The wizardry was best encapsulated by Wasim's sublime show in the 1992 ODI World Cup final, when he followed up an outswinger to Allan Lamb from around the wicket with an inswinger to Chris Lewis from the same angle to castle them off successive deliveries. The peach to dismiss Rahul Dravid at the MAC Stadium in 1999 in a humdinger of a Test springs to mind as another compelling example of his genius.

Such deliveries in the midst of his match-winning spells cemented his status as the finest practitioner of left-arm pace that the game had ever seen. So, when he bid adieu from international cricket in 2003, it seemed inconceivable for another left-armer to come along and surpass his feats.

It is remarkable, then, that Mitchell Starc has managed to go past the great fast bowler, statistically speaking, this past week. The affable Aussie left-armer did so by coaxing Harry Brook into an airy drive to the slip cordon in a six-wicket haul in England's first innings of the second Test in Brisbane, which the hosts won by eight wickets to canter to a 2-0 lead in the five-match affair. It has taken his tally in the longest format to 420 wickets in 102 Tests, six more than Wasim's 414 in 104 matches. It is also worth noting that Starc's current strike rate of 46.9 is the best for any bowler who has played 100 or more Tests.

Shortly after his special feat on the opening day of the pink-ball Test, Starc was asked for his reaction to overtaking the Pakistani, both of whom have coincidentally starred in World Cup-winning campaigns culminating at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

"I will reflect on it later. Wasim was still a far better bowler than I am. He is still the pinnacle of left-armers, and certainly right up there with bowlers to ever play the game. So, it is nice to be spoken about around him, but I will just try to keep churning a few out," the soft-spoken speedster would respond modestly.

Taking into cognisance Starc's own assessment, it is best to stay away from comparisons. Where Starc is strikingly similar to Akram, of course, is in his ability to recognise and seize moments that alter the course of a match.

A match haul of eight for 139 and a contribution of 77 in the day-night encounter at the Gabba, which yielded Starc his third successive Player-of-the-Match award in the format, was the latest proof. In the opener at Perth Stadium, which lasted all of two days, Starc scalped seven for 58 and three for 55 across the two innings in an emphatic victory.

By delivering rousing performances in each of the first two Tests when Australia was without skipper Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood due to injuries, he has already gone a long way towards ensuring that this series is remembered as Starc's Ashes.

> He has plenty of cricket in him. I think he will get 500 Test wickets
> **WASIM AKRAM**

> As a fast bowler, I can't fathom playing 100 games and keeping that 145 kmh speed. He is just a warrior
> **PAT CUMMINS**

Setting the tone

As he has done in the past, Starc set the tone in the opening over of the series in Perth. Having dismissed Rory Burns off the very first ball of the 2021-22 Ashes series at home, he had to wait until the final ball of his first over this time to get rid of Zak Crawley for a blob. Before his first spell came to a close, he would also trap Ben Duckett plumb in front and find Joe Root's outside edge. When he returned after the lunch break, he added Ben Stokes, Gus Atkinson, Jamie Smith and Mark Wood to his list of victims in the space of 29 balls to finish with a career-best seven-for.

By running through the English line-up with a ball that had gone out of shape pretty quickly, Starc underscored the subtle improvements he has made to his game at this stage of his career. Even with his stock weapon - the deadly inswinger to a right-hander - curtailed, he was able to maintain his wicket-taking threat with his shrewd use of the wobble-seam delivery. It is a variation that enables Starc to push the ball away from the right-handers and into the left-handers, and reduces his reliance on the ball moving in the air.

True to his self-effacing demeanour, Starc deflected the praise to Cummins and Hazlewood, his two best mates, when asked about the addition to his armoury.

"Two of my best mates are two of the best exponents of it in the world. To learn off Josh and Pat... if I had listened to those two a bit earlier, I may have added it to my repertoire a bit earlier," he told the media.

Starc's evolution reflects unequivocally in his numbers. In nine Tests in 2025, he has snared 47 wickets at an average of 16 and a strike rate of 26.9, the latter two figures being better than any previous year.

Top priority

For the 35-year-old from Sydney to be going stronger than ever before is a testament to his fitness. It has been facilitated by his unflinching commitment to donning the Baggy Green for Australia, with Starc notably eschewing the opportunity to land lucrative IPL deals from 2016 to 2023 - a period when he was among the best white-ball bowlers going around.

He has turned up unfailingly for Australia in marquee white-ball events too, winning two ODI World Cups (2015, 2023) and one T20 World Cup (2021) along the way. It was only in September this year that Starc announced his T20I retirement with the intention of prolonging his Test career further and featuring in the 2027 ODI World Cup.

Though Starc's choices may have deprived him of a few financial gains, he has the honour of a long career in whites to cherish for the rest of his life. By playing his 100th Test, against West Indies in July, he became just the second Australian pacer after Glenn McGrath to reach the three-figure milestone. In recognition of Starc's achievement, Cummins offered fitting praise at the time.

AP

"A huge effort. As a fast bowler, I can't fathom playing 100 games and keeping that 145 kmh speed. He is just a warrior. He turns up every week and wants to play no matter what," the Australian skipper, who has featured in 71 Tests himself, had said.

Starc's endurance was epitomised by his efforts on the third day of the Brisbane Test. Having curbed his attacking stroke-play and stayed in the middle for 34.2 overs through the afternoon heat, his body was still robust enough to charge in at full tilt with the pink ball and touch speeds hovering around the 145 kmh mark in the very last over of the night session.

How much longer can Starc, who will turn 36 in January, potentially stretch himself in the five-day game? Akram, in an interview to *News Corp* before the Brisbane Test, prophesied where Starc could end up.

"He has plenty of cricket in him. I think he will get 500 Test wickets," the former Pakistan skipper said.

That won't be music to the ears of the England batters.

THE GIST

- Where Starc is strikingly similar to Akram, of course, is in his ability to recognise and seize moments that alter the course of a match
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Youth abducted by group of transgenders rescued in Madurai

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 23-year-old youth who was allegedly abducted by a group of transgenders in an attempt to forcibly convert him through a sex-change procedure, was rescued and reunited with the family.

The incident came to light after the victim's father filed a complaint at the D.J. Halli police station.

According to the complaint, the youth, a welder, went missing on December 5, following which the family approached the police.

Based on the missing person report, the D.J. Halli police began an investigation and traced the youth to Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

The police rescued the youth from Madurai, where the accused had allegedly taken him with the intention of performing a sex-change operation. Officers said they are verifying whether any medical procedures were actually performed. The youth has been admitted to a hospital in Bengaluru for medical examination and treatment.

The group of transgenders involved is currently on the run. The police have launched a search operation to trace them. A case has been registered at the D.J. Halli police station, and further investigation is under way.

In August last year, the Pulikeshinagar police had registered a case against five transgenders for allegedly abducting a youth to coerce him into prostitution. The victim, who worked as a waiter at a tea shop frequented by the accused, was subjected to severe abuse. Unable to bear the harassment, the victim escaped and approached the police.

In September 2016, a PU student had been abducted and forced into a sex change in 2015 by a group of transgenders. The victim escaped from the gang 10 days later and complained to the police.

Member of attention diversion gang held, ₹4 lakh recovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The K.R. Puram police have arrested a key member of an infamous attention-diversion gang and recovered ₹4 lakh. Raja Chinna Kumar, 32, was tracked to Tiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu, using CCTV camera footage. The police later recovered the stolen cash, which he had hidden at a friend's house in Koramangala.

According to the police, Raja and his associate had followed Sudhakar, a resident of Bengaluru, after he withdrew ₹5 lakh from a bank. Sudhakar reached T.C. Palya, where he is constructing a house, and took ₹50,000 from the scooter's boot to pay labourers. When he returned, he found the remaining cash missing and filed a complaint.

Acting on the complaint, the police examined CCTV camera footage from the bank to Sudhakar's house and confirmed that the gang had followed him.

Based on the evidence, the police identified Raja and apprehended him. He has been remanded in judicial custody, while efforts are on to trace his associates.

Dialogue between DCM and city apartment federation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Urban Development Department, Government of Karnata, has arranged a dialogue between the Bengaluru Apartment Federation (BAF) and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on December 13 at the Vidhana Soudha Banquet Hall.

Correction

In the report titled, "Activists flay tunnel-flyover project for Hebbal-Airport Road in Bengaluru," published in these columns on December 9, there is a portion attributed to citizen activist Rajkumar Dugar that says: "...and Corridor 1 of Suburban Rail between Majestic and airport terminal will be completed by the end of 2027...".

It should read ".....and Corridor2 of Suburban line between Beniganahalli and Chikka Banavara via Hebbal and Yeshwanthpur will be completed by the end of 2027..." and not as published.

AI-based Smart Enforcement System to be deployed in 60 high-risk locations in State

System will automatically generate digital challans and dispatch them to offenders through their registered email IDs and mobile numbers

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

All real-time inputs from the cameras will be consolidated at a centralised State Control Room, where they will be analysed and converted into actionable intelligence. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Karnataka Transport Department is preparing to launch an Artificial Intelligence-based Smart Enforcement System to electronically monitor road safety and penalise violations across major routes in the State. This marks the department's first large-scale adoption of AI-driven enforcement technology aimed at improving compliance and reducing accidents.

The department will install advanced smart cameras at 60 high-risk locations identified using Blackspot data from the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and Karnataka-specific accident records from the Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD). The selected stretches are in multiple districts, including Davangere, Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Belagavi, Chitradurga, Haveri, Vijayanagara, Ballari, Vijayapura, and Dakshina Kannada. A tender for the same was called by the department on December 8.

A senior Transport Department official said, "Monitoring the operation of commercial vehicles is a key responsibility of the department. We are upgrading enforcement infrastructure and taking steps to book offenders under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the rules made there under".

The selected stretches are in multiple districts, including Davangere, Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Belagavi, Chitradurga, Haveri, Vijayanagara, Ballari, Vijayapura, and Dakshina Kannada

"The AI-based enforcement network is expected to significantly enhance the ability to identify violations in real time and strengthen data-driven decision-making in road safety management. The system will automatically generate digital challans and despatch them to offenders through their registered email IDs and mobile numbers. Each violator will receive an alert containing a secure link to access photographic or video evidence of the violation, along with instructions for making the payment," the official added.

Command centre

The Smart Enforcement Project will also include an end-to-end intelligent command centre powered by a robust ICT-enabled WAN network.

The system will unify assets, operations and control functions on a single platform, supported by AI-enabled smart cameras and a digital payment system for issuing e-challans, according to officials.

Future expansion

All real-time inputs from the cameras will be consolidated at a centralised State Control Room, where they will be analysed and converted into actionable intelligence.

"We hope that this transparent, technology-driven process will not only streamline enforcement but also minimise disputes, reduce manual intervention, and ensure faster resolution of cases," an official said.

Officials said the platform is also designed with future expansion in mind. Potential upgrades include smart parking solutions to detect illegal parking, integration with Intelligent traffic management systems, coordination with civil and traffic police, and linkages with emergency response, disaster management, healthcare and judicial systems, including e-courts.

The project will also support advanced video management and analytics capabilities.

Officials have been directed to ensure that pedestrian pathways are well-maintained and kept clean. FILE PHOTO

Identify 50 spots, fix them for pedestrian safety, says GBA chief

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Maheshwar Rao has directed civic officials to identify suitable locations for dog shelters in each corporation to implement the recent SC ruling

Each of the 10 zones spread across five city corporations have to identify five pedestrian locations in poor condition within each zone to fix them at the earliest, directed Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao on Tuesday.

Addressing a virtual meeting of all five corporations, he directed officials to identify 50 spots with high pedestrian footfall but having issues, and repair them and submit a detailed report listing the completed works.

Waste dumping

Mr.Rao said pedestrian pathways should be well-maintained and kept clean.

He asked officials to identify those dumping waste on the roadside and in empty plots and penalise them.

Mr. Rao also directed officials to upgrade junctions taken up for improvement under the Suraksha 75 scheme, within the stipulated time frame.

This also has pedestrian safety as its focus.

Apart from these, Mr. Rao directed civic officials to identify suitable locations for dog shelters in each corporation to implement a recent Supreme Court ruling, construct one transfer station per Assembly constituency, and install 'kasa kiosks' in areas with high waste generation and near slum settlements.

Kasturinagar

Earlier in the day, the GBA Chief Commissioner inspected several works in the Kasturinagar area and directed officials to create a master plan for the comprehensive development of the Kasturinagar area, including overall infrastructure development. Kasturinagar area is now divided between Bengaluru Central and East City Corporations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client SRI.SUJITH.S to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Sale deed dt. 31.07.2003 registered as document No.10807/2003-04 of Book I, Stored in CD No. 134 and registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Kengeri, Bangalore in respect of Site No.25, formed in Converted Sy.No. 11/3 and 11/4, measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 30 feet, totally measuring 1500 Sq.ft., Situated at Chudenapura Village, Kodipalya, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and coming the under limits of BBMP, Ward No.198-Hemmigepura, Bangalore has been lost at the time of travelling.

All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Sale deed. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days from this present along with that Police Complaint is also given vide Lost Report No. 1948235/2025, dated 09.12.2025

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. M : 9916343921

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841221

E-Tender Notice No. 08/RWP/Engg./ 2025-26/WT/(Open) Date:-05.12.2025

The Dy. CE/RWP/Bela for and on behalf of the President of India, invites Online **"e-Open Tender"** through Indian Railways E-procurement portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in** for the following works as detailed :- **(1) Name of the work and Location, Approximate cost, Earnest money and Completion period of the work :** Tender No-14_RWP_Engg_25_26_WT_ Open, **Name of Work:-** Provision of crash barrier on railway boundary from gate No. 1 to NYO at RWP/Bela. (Aprox 6.5 KM). **Approximate cost-** Rs. 2,29,06,883/-, **Tender form Cost-** Nil, **Earnest money-** Rs. 2,64,500/-, Completion period of the work - 06 Months, Tender No- 15_RWP_Engg_25_26_WT_ Open, **Name of Work:-** Work related to safe working condition in plant of RWP/Bela. **Approximate cost-** Rs. 1,18,91,477/-, **Tender form Cost-** Nil, **Earnest money-** Rs. 2,09,500/-, Completion period of the work - 06 Months, **(2) Tender closing date and time :** 29.12.2025 upto 14:30 Hrs. **(3) Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be obtained and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. :** The above tender can be submitted only by the date and time as mentioned in the notice. For full details and submission of bid kindly visit Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in.** The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal (www.ireps.gov.in) for updates including Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.

Dy. Chief Engineer /Rail Wheel Plant-Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt./2025-26/86

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया **Union Bank of India**
A Government of India Undertaking

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Applications are invited for offer of Commercial Premises for shifting of a Branch with adequate power and parking facilities, on lease (Rent) basis.

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The Lease period shall be for 5+5+5 years. Only Ground floor will be considered. Preference will be given for partly built/ready to occupy premises. If the premises is found suitable, the bank may relax the carpet area requirement by "+ or - 10%". The offers are called under two parts, i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid. For full details, application formats and the manner of submission of bids, contact the Regional office or visit Bank's website **www.unionbankofindia.co.in / e-procurement portal tenders.gov.in. Last date for submission of bids in prescribed format 24-12-2025 upto 3.00 PM.**

Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Place: Mysore
Date : 09-12-2025 **Regional Head**

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India BOI

Chikkaballapura Branch: Chikballapur 2nd Cross, Opposite Road 28th Ward, Distt Chikkaballapur-562101

लॉकर करिए पर लेने के लिए सूचना NOTICE TO LOCKER HIRERS

Following Locker holders are hereby notified that their respective lockers will be broken open on **19-12-2025** as per the laid down procedure of the Bank, if they fail to pay the rental dues by **18-12-2025.**

Account Number	Locker Hirer Name	Locker No	Arrears (Rs.)
846310110*00043	B C PADMANABHA	D-00039	Rs. 9,000.00
8463201100*0018	C S MANJUNATHA	D-000027	Rs. 1,800.00

स्थान /Place : बेंगलुरु / Bangalore **Branch Manager**
दिनांक/Date : 09.12.2025 **Bank of India Chikkaballapur branch**

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India BOI

Banaswadi Branch : 255, Ist Floor Anjanadir Towers Hrbr LayOut Dodda Banaswadi-560043

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843730110*00010	JENNIFER BOUN	D-000132	Rs. 15,000.00
843710110*03282	PRAKASH PARMAR	G-000171	Rs. 32,500.00
0508101000*5586	RAO CHANDRA MOHAN D C	03/004	Rs.12,000.00
8437101100*7341	K RAJENDRA REDDY	G-000165	Rs. 19,500.00

स्थान /Place : बेंगलुरु / Bangalore **Branch Manager**
दिनांक/Date : 09.12.2025 **Bank of India Banaswadi branch**

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TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited for **purchase of Dell i7-14700 and Acer monitor** at Army Public School ASC Centre & College (APS ASC C&C). Tender Enquiry/Form can be collected from school office after payment of Rs.200/- (Demand Draft in favour of APS ASC C&C) from 10 Dec 2025 to 17 Dec 2025 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date and time to submit filled tender form is 18 Dec 2025 at 1130 hrs.

Sd/-, P O / Member 1
For School Mgt

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
A Government of India Undertaking

सिंडिकेट Syndicate

BENGALURU

E-AUCTION NOTICE

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION) UNDER RULES 8(6) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold by inviting tenders on the following terms & conditions. E auction arranged by the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (BAANKNET) .** through the website **https://BAANKNET.COM//**

Sl. No.	1)Name of the Borrower / Guarantor(s) 2)Name of the Branch and Secured Creditor	1) Secured Debt outstanding 2) Reserve Price 3) Earnest Money Deposit	1) Last date of deposit of EMD 2) Last date of KYC documents 3) EMD Details 4) Bid Factor	1. Date of Auction 2. Time of Auction 3. Date & Time of Inspection
1	1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) : 1)KUMAR S , S/O Late Shanmuga, No. 10, Sri Krishna Building, Avenue Road entrance, Bangalore 560002. 2) Canara Bank - Mysore Bank Circle branch Ph No. : 8651488414, 9431245357	1) Rs. 15,45,975.15 plus further interest & charges 2) Mentioned each property below.	1) 29.12.2025 up to 5.00 PM 2) 29.12.2025 up to 5.00 PM 3)EMD payment to E-Wallet or Through Challan generated in M/S PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) Portal. 4) Rs. 25,000/-	1. 30.12.2025 2. 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM 3. 26.12.2025 10.00 AM to 4.00 pm

Description of the Immovable assets : Residential BDA FLAT bearing no. ALR-B19-108, measuring 33.526 Sq mts super build up Area, 1 BHK, 1st Floor, 1st Phase,19th Block, Residential Complex, Alur layout, Alur, Dasanapura hobli, Bangalore North taluk, formed by Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore constructed over the schedule property along with common facilities passage, Staircase and lifts and bounded on: **East by :** Alur, B19/105 , **West by :** Road , **North by :** Stair case And **South by :** Alur, B19/107.

A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 11,26,000/- B) EMD - Rs. 1,12,600/-

For all details contact at Regional Office, MG Road, Bangalore. Contact Numbers - 1) 79074 16232, 2) 70107 03787

Place: Bangalore ,Date : 09.12.2025 **Authorized Officer , Canara Bank**

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER -I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL,BENGALURU (DRT-1)
4th Floor, Telephone House Builiding, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.

RC 158/2025 in OA No. 1453/2020

KARNATAKA GRAMIN BANK V/S. SRI UDAYA KUMAR

In the matter of **(CH -1) Karnataka Gramin Bank,** Hesaraghatta Branch Madurai Main Road, Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bangalore , Karnataka - 560 088 .....**Applicant Bank/ Certificate Holder**

V/s.

To (CD 1): Sri Udaya Kumar, S/o. Sri Venkatachalapathy , Residing at :292/1, 7th Main, Near Maramma Temple, Bagalagunte, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 073.

(CD 2) Smt. Rathnamma W/o. Sri Venkatachalapathy , Residing at :292/1, 7th Main, Near Maramma Temple, Bagalagunte, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 073.

(CD 3) Sri Muniraju N., S/o. Sri Nanjundappa M., No. 418/3A, Sector Yelahanka, New Town, Telahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 106.

....Defendants/Certificate Debtors

CH Name	Int. Type/ mode	Int. Rate	Effective Date	Order Date	Amount Rs	Int. as on order date	RC Amount (Rs.)	Remark
Karnataka Gramin Bank	Compound Interest	10.50% p.a.	04.12.2020	29.02.2024	3699495	0	3699495	Rate of int. is as mentioned with 2%penal int.

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, **Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bengaluru (DRT-1)** in **OA/1453/2020** an amount of **Rs.3699495/-** (Rupees Thrity Six Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Five Only) along with cost and future interest w.e.f. 04.12.2020 till realization and cost of **Rs.65329/-** (Rupees Sixty Five Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Nine Only) has become due against you (jointly and severally/fully/limited).

CD Name	Loan Type	Int. Type /mode	Int. Rate	Effective Date	Order Date	Amount Rs	Libility Type	Int.as on order date	RC Amount (Rs.)
(CD 1) Sri Udaya Kumar	Home Loan	Compound Interest (monthly)	10.50% p a	04.12.2020	29.02 2024	3699495	Jointly &Severally	Int.as on order date	3699495
(CD 2) Smt Rathnamma	Home Loan	Compound Interest (monthly)	10.50% p a	04.12.2020	29.02 2024	3699495	Jointly &Severally	Int.as on order date	3699495
(CD 3) Sri Muniraju N.	Home Loan	Compound Interest (monthly)	10.50% p a	04.12.2020	29.02 2024	3699495	Jointly &Severally	Int.as on order date	3699495

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. **3.**You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. **4.** You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, for further proceedings. **5.** In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **29.07.2025**

Sd/- (P. H. Hemanth Kumar IRS) Recovery Officer -2
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, Bangalore

New research traces how Africa's wildcats became today's house cats

Felines dispersed from northern Africa to Europe much more recently than thought, a study has found using iconographic evidence along with DNA; two waves of felines were introduced to Europe: the first comprised a wildcat species that was introduced to Sardinia, and the second wave came in not later than 2,000 years ago

Divya Gandhi

"You would know him if you saw him, for his eyes are sunken in/His brow is deeply lined with thought, his head is highly domed; His coat is dusty from neglect, his whiskers are uncombed. He sways his head from side to side, with movements like a snake; And when you think he's half asleep, he's always wide awake."

Thus goes T.S. Eliot's famous poem on his beloved feline: the domestic cat.

But when, and from where, did these creatures come to colonise the world and enter Eliot's poetic imagination in London? A new *Science* paper dug deep into the historical movements of the mystery cat and found that the domestic cat (*Felis catus*) originated from the African wildcat (*Felis lybica lybica*) and quickly spread, most likely by ship, across the globe just 2,000 years ago.

Researchers analysed 87 ancient and modern cat genomes – across Europe and Anatolia and 17 modern wildcats from Italy (including Sardinia), Bulgaria, and northern Africa (Morocco and Tunisia) – and generated a genomic time transect spanning 11,000 years.

The researchers challenged the commonly held view of a Neolithic introduction (from West Asia) of domestic cats to Europe, instead placing their arrival several millennia later, and from northern Africa.

The global population of cats is approaching a staggering one billion. REUTERS

THE GIST

Researchers analysed 87 ancient and modern cat genomes — across Europe and Anatolia, and 17 modern wildcats from Italy, Bulgaria, and northern Africa — and generated a genomic time transect spanning 11,000 years

Humans established a relationship with African wildcats in the Neolithic period, suggesting that cats were attracted to settlements that stored grain, which in turn drew rodents and other pests

The felines celebrated by the ancients have become a bit of a menace. Researchers have identified 2,084 species preyed on by cats, of which 347 are of conservation concern. Birds, reptiles, and mammals constitute 90% of species consumed

The ancestor

The ancestor to all modern domestic cats, the genetic findings revealed, is the African wildcat, presently distributed across northern Africa and the Near East. Interestingly, domestic cats shared more genetic affinities with wildcats, particularly with the Tunisian ones.

The researchers identified at least two waves of introduction to Europe: first, a dispersal of wildcats from northwestern Africa that were introduced to Sardinia and founded the island's present-day wild population; second, a distinct and yet-unknown population in northern Africa that dispersed not later than 2,000 years ago that established the gene pool of modern domestic cats in Europe.

"Domestic cats form a distinct sister clade [cluster] to the African wildcats, thus suggesting a closer genetic proximity to these wildcats than to the modern Levantine [West Asian] population," the researchers wrote. One of the "most successful mammalian domesticates", the cat has a worldwide presence, even in remote islands. Including feral cats, their global population is approaching a staggering one billion, the paper added.

Author Claudio Ottoni, associate professor anthropology at the University of Rome Tor Vergata and his co-authors studied ancient mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) data and realised that the timing and circumstances of cat domestication and dispersal remain "uncertain".

For instance, while archaeozoological and iconographic evidence points to two possible centres of domestication – the Neolithic Levant (West Asia) around 9,500 years ago and Pharaonic Egypt around 3,500 years ago – genetic analysis has placed the years of domestication to 2,000 years ago.

Levant and humans

"Cats were definitely interacting with humans in the Levant [West Asia] in the Neolithic period, more than 10,000 years ago, but these were most likely wildcats that were not ultimately domesticated," Mr. Ottoni told *The Hindu*. "A so-called commensal relationship was established between African wildcats in the Levant and humans in the Neolithic period, suggesting that cats were attracted to human settlements of the farmers who were storing grain that brought in rodents and other pests," he added.

As for the relationship between humans and wildcats in Europe, it was possibly based on hunting for fur. "However, more complex sociocultural and symbolic relationships should not be discounted," the authors pointed out.

So what drove the translocation of cats to new cultural settings?

The paper hypothesised thus: "As with the human-mediated dispersal of domestic chickens or fallow deer, the initial translocation of cats could have been religiously motivated... Dispersal trajectories may also have been driven by the benefits of cats as pest controllers on ships, in view of the extensive maritime trade network of Carthage and the role of Egypt as a major grain supplier to the Roman Empire."

> Tomb-walls depict cats as family, adorned in earrings and necklaces; eating from dishes; sitting attentively under the chair of the woman of the house; and even accompanying the family on boating expeditions
>
> **JONATHAN B. LOSOS**
> WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Muse to menace

Mr. Ottoni expressed belief they travelled across the Mediterranean via the trade routes that connected the Roman Empire with northern Africa, and also together with the Roman Empire and its people that were moving across Europe.

But Eliot's elusive muse has become a bit of a menace today, and has "markedly impact[ed] biodiversity," a 2023 paper in *Nature* reported. The researchers identified 2,084 species eaten by cats, "of which 347 (16.65%) are of conservation concern". Birds, reptiles, and mammals constitute around 90% of species consumed, while insects and amphibians were less frequent, the paper says.

But "another sampling issue requires more serious consideration", cautions a *Science* commentary published last month. The author, Jonathan B. Losos, at the department of biology, Washington University in St Louis, U.S. observed that we might have thought that "with the abundance of Egyptian cat mummies, there would be no shortage of ancient genomic data from northern Africa; however, recovering such data from mummies is notoriously difficult and other types of feline remains in the archaeological record from this region are not common".

By the time of Thutmose III (around 3,500 years ago), the cat was already a household pet in Ancient Egypt. We know this from "tomb-wall depictions of cats as family members adorned in collars, earrings, and necklaces; eating from dishes; sitting attentively under the chair of the woman of the house; and even accompanying the family on boating expeditions", Mr. Losos wrote. And then, the rise of the goddess Bastet, (a woman with the head of a cat) "elevated the felines to revered status".

"Technology has driven the way we unfold and understand historical events and has also clarified how humans have influenced species distributiona, and still do," Shomita Mukherjee, a cat ecologist, told *The Hindu*. In this case, genomic information is fast changing our understanding of the history of several domestic and wild species, she added.

divya.gandhi@thehindu.co.in

BIG SHOT

Russian support personnel around the Soyuz MS-27 space capsule shortly after it landed in a remote area near the town of Zhezkazgan, Kazakhstan, with Expedition 73 NASA astronaut Jonny Kim, and Roscosmos cosmonauts Sergey Ryzhikov, and Alexey Zubritsky aboard. AFP

QUESTION CORNER

Caught in the headlights

Q: Why can't we see well right after entering a darker room?

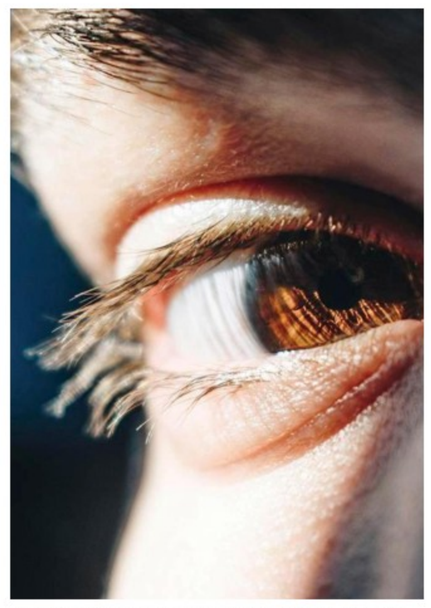
A: You're standing on your balcony in the noon sun. It's bright. After a moment, you step back into your darker room, and for a few moments, you're unable to see clearly. This is because your eyes need time to adjust.

The eyes are made of three layers: sclera and cornea, the pupil, and the retina. The pupil is like a camera's aperture: by changing how much it opens, it can say how much light reaches the retina.

Light that's too bright can damage the retina, so in bright conditions, the pupil shrinks. If the retina is damaged, it can lead to blurry vision and, in severe cases, permanent vision loss.

Conversely, in a dimmer room, there's not enough light, so the pupil opens wider and the retina can sense more light.

So when you suddenly enter the darker room after having been outside in the sun, your pupils are still small. They need a few moments to widen, and until they do, not enough light enters the eye and vision is blurred. There is another reason why things are not immediately visible in the dark. The retina contains rod cells and cone cells. The rod cells sense brightness using a light-sensitive protein called rhodopsin. Bright light breaks down rhodopsin quickly and the rod cells become inactive. When the eyes adjust to the darkness, the protein's levels are building back up.



Light that's too bright can damage the retina. BACILA VLAD/UNSPLASH

S. Adithya Jyothi is interning with The Hindu

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

BDA set to allot 5,000 sites in Shivaram Karanth Layout

This will be the first time in a decade that BDA sites will be available via allotment; the last allotment was done in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout in 2016

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The impasse over the Dr. K. Shivaram Karanth Layout is likely to be resolved soon, and the decks are being cleared for the allotment of 5,000 sites in Phase I of the Layout, developed by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). This will be the first time in a decade that BDA sites will be available through allotment. The last allotment was done in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout in 2016.

These sites were scheduled to be allotted in January 2024. However, the High Court of Karnataka stayed the process in December 2023, hearing petitions by land losers, who contested that no sites should be allotted to the public till their compensation package is settled.

The High Court has now permitted BDA to allot developed land as compensation to land losers, and the BDA has already begun the process. For every acre of land acquired for the Layout, land losers will get 9,555 sq. ft of developed land.

"Once we allot developed lands to land losers, we will go back to the High Court and seek permission to allot sites to the public. This was the hurdle for allotting sites to the public and with this cleared, we are confident of getting permission to allot sites to the public," said P. Manivannan, Commissioner, BDA.

Transparent process

"We have prepared software for allotment of developed land for land losers. The data of all land losers, the extent of land they have given up, is fed into the system. Allotment will be a transparent process through computerised randomisation. All allotment will be done in one day," said Mr. Manivannan. "We recently allotted alternative sites to those in Arkavathy Layout in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout the same way. The chairman, BDA, is clear that no one should run around for their sites," he added.

A file photo of the Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout in Bengaluru.

Mr. Manivannan said that they were working towards the allotment of developed lands to land losers in Dr. K. Shivaram Karanth Layout by mid-January, 2026.

Land losers have welcomed BDA's move to finally allot developed land as compensation for their lands acquired for the Layout. Notification for 3,546 acres in 17 villages in North Bengaluru was issued way back in 2008.

"We fought the layout tooth and nail in a decades-long legal battle. But we lost it, and the Layout is a reality now. We will accept the developed land as compensation. The High Court has asked BDA to allot us developed lands. But BDA is yet to communicate anything to us," said Nanjundappa, a former city councillor and president, Shivaram Karanth Layout Hitharakshana Samiti, and a land loser himself.

Commercial sites

However, land losers are demanding that they should also be given a commercial site as part of the compensation package, and not just residential sites.

"We are locals, and many who have lost farm lands have also lost their means for livelihood. We demand that BDA should provide a commercial site as well, which will provide a means of livelihood. Of the total land being allotted to a land loser, may be 10% should be a commercial site," Mr. Nanjundappa said. However, BDA has not agreed to this proposal.

BDA had fixed ₹4,900 per sq. ft for allotment in December 2023. This means a 30X40 site costs ₹59 lakh, making it the costliest BDA site via allotment. However, there has been real estate speculation in the area since the layout was announced, and the cost of a sq ft of land has already inched towards the ₹5,500 level. Whether BDA will revise its rate or allot sites at the same rate of ₹4,900 per sq. ft is not yet decided, sources in the BDA said.

Round robin system for e-khatas to be shunned

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has decided to cancel the round robin system that had been introduced to provide new khatas and e-khatas for properties, and will revert to the old system, according to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

He was speaking in the Assembly during Question Hour, replying to BJP member K. Gopalaiah, who alleged that the round robin system had inconvenienced the public.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar speaking at the winter session of the Assembly in Belagavi on Tuesday.

The Deputy Chief Minister pointed out that only about 6,450 applications regarding e-khata were pending for now before the five city corporations under the GBA.

Meanwhile, replying to BJP member Dheeraj Muniraju, the Deputy Chief Minister said that it had been proposed to set up two scientific waste processing centres in northern and southern regions of Bengaluru to handle waste from the five city corporations of Bengaluru.

While 134 acres and 10 guntas of land had been identified in Gundalahalli village of Doddabelavangala hobli in Doddaballapura taluk, 84 acres and 14 guntas and 31 acres and 14 guntas of lands in two survey numbers had been identified in Gollahalli of Uttarahalli hobli in Bengaluru South taluk for setting up these centres, he said.

He explained that presently Bengaluru city was generating about 5,600 tonnes of waste a day, but the processing capacity was only 3,000 tonnes a day. This had resulted in large quantities of waste going to landfills. This had impacted public health, he observed.

He explained that the proposed waste processing centres aim to generate bio-gas and production of compost from wet waste and recycling of dry waste besides power generation.

Such centres would be set up in a few other places within and outside Bengaluru including his Assembly constituency Kanakapura, he said.

Devanahalli: Govt. clarifies that 'permanent agri zone' status will not affect farmers' rights to sell their land

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Close on the heels of declaring 1,777 acres of land in 13 villages of Devanahalli taluk as "Permanent Special Agricultural Zone", after shelving the proposed acquisition of this land for an aerospace park, the government has clarified that declaring it as a zone will not affect farmers' freedom to sell their land.

"Farmers retain full freedom to sell their land – there are no restrictions whatsoever," clarified S. Selvakumar, Principal Secretary, Department of Industries. He urged farmers not to be misled by rumours, confusion or false narratives.

Dr. Selvakumar's clarification comes in response to reports claiming that farmers' rights to sell their land had been curtailed.

In a release, he said: "Farmers from these 13 villages expressed their desire to continue with agriculture. The government responded positively and honoured its commitment. Any claim that this decision causes hardship to farmers is untrue. Our intention is to prevent real-estate misuse of agricultural land and stop developers from exploiting farmers."

He said: "Originally, this land near Devanahalli had been proposed to be acquired for establishing an aerospace park. However, considering the farmers' request, the government has withdrawn the acquisition plan and reserved the area exclusively for agriculture. That said, if any farmer voluntarily wishes to sell his or her land to the government, they remain free to do so – and will be compensated based on the Land Price Determination Committee's decision. However, there is no requirement that the land has to be sold only to the government." By designating the region, the government hopes to attract investment into agriculture as well, the official release stated.

Under this provision, farmers can benefit from high-yielding seed varieties, cold storage facilities, organic farming, modern agricultural technologies including hydroponics, improved soil and water management, direct market access, elimination of middlemen, remunerative prices, e-trading and digital marketplaces. They will also receive special tax exemptions for farms and agri-startups, faster approvals for agri-business projects, growth of agriculture-based industries, export opportunities, warehouse development, and local employment, the release said.

Similar special agricultural zones already exist in states like Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra.

Network issue around Central Prison: Home Minister to meet telecom service providers on December 22

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an attempt to find a solution to weak signals near Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara caused by jammers installed inside the prison, Home Minister G. Parameswara said that he will meet major telecom service providers on December 22.

He was responding to a question raised by M. Krishnappa of BJP in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

"For the sake of people who live in the vicinity, the jammers cannot be made defunct. There are four major service providers in the area - Airtel, BSNL, Vi, and Jio. We are in discussions with them to come up with a technical solution to the problem," said the Minister.

Meetings held

Noting that so far four meetings have been held with the service providers, Dr. Parameswara said that the next meeting will be held on December 22, soon after the Assembly session. He added that the government was also looking into a similar issue reported from Mangaluru.

So far, 19 jammers have been installed at the prison, significantly hampering mobile network in the region and leading to protests from residents in the locality.

"When the Central Prison was built, there were no houses in that area. Now the area has developed a lot," said Dr. Parameswara.

Heated debate over delay in giving relief to farmers

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Members of the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress engaged in a heated debate in the Legislative Council on Tuesday over relief to farmers who suffered losses due to heavy rains.

While the members in the Opposition benches accused the State government of ignoring the plight of farmers, the members in the treasury benches maintained that the BJP was politicising the issue instead of responding to the farmers' issues.

Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy stated that the government's assessment of crop loss caused by heavy rains was incorrect. The BJP, he claimed, had collected information from the farmers, and the total extent of agricultural land affected was 38.71 lakh hectares, while the government's figure was only 14.58 lakh hectares.

Former Minister C.T. Ravi claimed that while there had been 85,000 incidents of crop loss due to wildlife, the government released relief only in 35,000 cases. He also took objection to stopping the State's contributions under the Prime Minister's Fasal Bima Yojana.

"When the BJP was in power, the State contributed ₹4,000, besides ₹6,000 from the Centre. The government should have continued the contribution for the benefit of the farmers," he opined.

He said Karnataka was second in terms of farmers' suicides. In the last two years 2,422 farmers committed suicide and the government had released compensation for 941 families.

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

UN grants relief after Cyclone Ditwah batters Sri Lanka

4.5 million dollars. The United Nations has released $4.5 million from its Central Emergency Response Fund to support Sri Lanka's recovery from Cyclone Ditwah. Sri Lanka's foreign minister thanked the UN, noting the disaster's severe impact on livelihoods and infrastructure. PTI

Projected population of the elderly in India by 2036

22.74 crore. India's elderly population is projected to surge to 22.74 crore by 2036, the Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai told the Lok Sabha. The share of citizens aged 60 and above is expected to rise from 8.4% in 2011 to 14.9% in 2036. ANI

Returnable plots which are yet to be registered in Amaravati

7,000 Andhra Pradesh Municipal Minister P. Narayana said 7,000 of the 66,000 returnable plots allotted to farmers in Amaravati are yet to be registered. Farmers are completing 30 to 60 registrations daily. PTI

Worth of possible cyber frauds blocked via I4C's registry

8,031 In crore. The government told Parliament that the I4C's suspect registry, launched in 2024, helped block ₹8,031.56 crore in suspected cyber fraud transactions. The database has identified over 18 lakh suspicious individuals. PTI

Sudanese militia leader gets sentenced by the ICC

20 years. The International Criminal Court has sentenced Sudanese Janjaweed leader Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman to 20 years in prison for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the 2003-04 Darfur conflict. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Lessons from recent transport crises

In October, trains to Bihar experienced immense rush. In December, the mass cancellation of Indigo flights led to stranded passengers and inflated prices. Low prices of government services do not increase welfare unless accompanied by government investment, while deregulated prices only reduce welfare in the presence of monopolies

ECONOMIC NOTES

Rahul Menon

In the past couple of months, India has witnessed its transport infrastructure come under massive strain. In October and November, trains to Bihar experienced immense rush, owing to migrants travelling home for Chhath Puja and the Bihar elections. Travellers were forced to travel in cramped and inhospitable conditions in unreserved compartments due to the paucity of trains. In December, the mass cancellation of Indigo flights owing to regulatory non-compliance led to stranded passengers and inflated prices.

Both events can be used to explain the reaction of prices and the responses of government and private players to demand and supply shocks. But the divergent behaviour of prices – and its effects – in these cases indicate the constraints imposed on welfare in a neo-liberal economy. Low prices of government services do not increase welfare unless accompanied by significant government investment, while deregulated prices only reduce welfare in the presence of monopolies.

Out of options: Passengers crowd at the platform as they arrive to board a train to their home town a day after the Chhath Puja festival at a railway station in Patna on October 29. AFP

Demand shock and Indian Railways

The sudden increase in demand for Bihar-bound trains in October is a classic indication of a demand shock. In the face of a given supply, such an increase in demand would lead to higher prices. If prices remain fixed due to government intervention, it would lead to an increase in the number of travellers far beyond the capacity of the trains. This led to overcrowded trains and hazardous travelling conditions. Standard economic theory would state that prices need to rise such that demand and supply are in equilibrium. While this would lead to the inability to travel for many, economic efficiency would be achieved.

Critics point to this as the fundamental issue with government services, where keeping prices low due to social compulsions leads to excess demand of services and rampant inefficiency. But this criticism misses a fundamental problem. It is true that low prices lead to overcrowding, but the answer lies not in raising prices, but ensuring an increase in supply. Prices for certain services like health, education and train travel must be kept affordable for welfare, but at the same time, there must be significant investment by the state to expand access.

This is difficult to do in a neo-liberal economy, which places strict constraints on government intervention in the economy. Limits are placed on the size of the fiscal deficit, limiting government investment. A route that increases government spending while maintaining the deficit is through raising resources by wealth and income taxation of the top 1%. As shown by Thomas Piketty and his team, modest taxation of the top 1% would be enough to raise a considerable amount to strengthen the Indian welfare state. This, however, would not be acceptable to domestic and global capital.

Monopolies and grounded flights

The solution, as advanced by many, is deregulation, and the entry of private capital into the provision of services. The logic goes that focusing on the profit motive ensures an efficient match of demand and supply, and investment in search of profit will ensure the expansion of services to all. However, the recent crisis surrounding Indigo has shown the shortcomings of this model.

The Indigo crisis is an example of a supply shock. The withdrawal of flights in the face of normal demand leads to price increases, amplified by the near-monopoly enjoyed by Indigo in Indian markets. The reduction in such a large amount of supply meant huge price increases for other flights and significant consumer loss. Supply restrictions for one firm in a market would not lead to such massive market-wide disruptions if the market was genuinely competitive.

Non-competitive pricing power was highlighted as a key factor leading to the rapid increase in inflation during former U.S. President Joe Biden's term, which played a role in bringing Donald Trump to power. The massive supply disruptions brought about by lockdowns increased costs, but were translated into a cost-of-living crisis due to the presence of significant monopolies. The argument for flexible prices implicitly assumes a competitive economy, which requires government intervention to prevent the rise of monopolies.

On the liberal economy

The two outcomes are not distinct but are the consequences of a neo-liberal economy that places restrictions on the actions of the state but pushes for deregulation of private activities. The inability of the state to raise taxes and increase spending leaves them with no option but to keep prices low for essential services and struggle with the increased demand and the fallout from overcrowding. The withdrawal of regulation leads to the concentration of capital and the rise of monopolies, a feature of Indian markets today. Far from ensuring consumer welfare, unregulated private markets can lead to rising monopolies which lower welfare and lead to high prices, as seen in the case of Indigo and the U.S. The two travel disruptions may seem dissimilar, yet they are both logical outcomes of an economic model that prizes the private, and downplays the importance of the public. These massive disruptions will emerge once more, if the underlying tendencies towards monopolies and the degradation of public services are not arrested.

Rahul Menon is associate professor at O.P. Jindal Global University.

THE GIST

The sudden increase in demand for Bihar-bound trains in October is a classic indication of a demand shock. In the face of a given supply, such an increase in demand would lead to higher prices. If prices remain fixed due to government intervention, it would lead to an increase in the number of travellers far beyond the capacity of the trains.

The Indigo crisis is an example of a supply shock. The withdrawal of flights in the face of normal demand leads to price increases, amplified by the near-monopoly enjoyed by Indigo in Indian markets.

The two outcomes are not distinct but are the outcomes of a neo-liberal economy that places restrictions on the actions of the state but pushes for deregulation of private activities.

Does Google's Quantum Echoes bring Q-day closer?

What was the Willow experiment? How does an RSA encryption work? Is Q-day on the horizon?

Priti Kumari

The story so far:

Using a 65-qubit Willow superconducting processor, Google researchers have measured how quantum information spreads and refocuses within an entangled system. This technological leap in quantum computing has been called Quantum Echoes.

What was the experiment?

Unlike the 2019 Sycamore experiment, which claimed "quantum supremacy" for completing a random-number task faster than any supercomputer, Quantum Echoes was not a speed race but a test of understanding. Scientists measured out-of-time-order correlators (OTOC) – tiny echoes that reveal how disturbances travel through a network of qubits. The method resembles giving a material a microscopic "poke," reversing time evolution, and listening for the returning echo. The echo's strength reveals how quickly information disperses, offering insight for chemistry, materials science, and superconductivity. Despite its scientific importance, the experiment does not bring the world closer to breaking encryption or to Q-day.

'Harvest now, decrypt later'

Q-day refers to the day a cryptographically relevant quantum computer becomes powerful enough to break public-key encryption. It would not instantly expose all secrets, but any encrypted data stored today could be decoded later if intercepted now – a risk known as "harvest now, decrypt later."

Governments and researchers are already preparing. The U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has standardised new post-quantum cryptography (PQC) algorithms – CRYSTALS-Kyber for encryption and Dilithium for digital signatures. These rely on mathematical problems that are believed to resist both classical and quantum attacks.

Experts expect that machines capable of breaking RSA-2048 will need millions of logical qubits, which could take 5 to 8 years to build (RSA-2048 is a commonly used standard for public-key cryptography). Until then, Q-day remains a theoretical horizon. RSA encryption works by multiplying two large prime numbers to create an enormous product. Multiplication is easy, but reversing it and finding the original primes is so difficult that even the fastest classical computers would need billions of years to solve it.

Machines that test multiple possibilities

Quantum computers operate under the laws of quantum mechanics. Their building blocks, called qubits, exploit superposition, the ability to exist as both 0 and 1 simultaneously, and entanglement, where qubits influence each other instantly, even when far apart. These features let quantum machines test many possibilities at once rather than sequentially. This aspect of existing in multiple places at the same time powers Shor's algorithm, which converts the hard task of factoring numbers into one of finding repeating patterns, or periods, in modular arithmetic. To expose those patterns, the algorithm uses the Quantum Fourier Transform (QFT), a tool that acts like a detector of hidden rhythms within a signal. Scaling this method to large RSA numbers would let a quantum computer find their prime factors exponentially faster than classical machines.

Craig Gidney and Martin Ekera of Google Research estimated in 2019 that factoring a 2,048-bit RSA key would need about 20 million physical qubits and eight hours of computation. Current processors, such as Google's Willow and IBM's Condor, have only a few hundred noisy qubits. A true fault-tolerant quantum computer would require millions of logical qubits, which are stable, error-corrected versions capable of long calculations. That scale remains far beyond present technology.

Shor's algorithm and encryption systems

In theory, Shor's algorithm is a computational tool designed to factor large numbers efficiently. Its purpose is mathematical and, eventually, cryptographic: it challenges the foundations of today's encryption systems. Quantum Echoes is an experiment in physics. Instead of solving equations, it studies how quantum information spreads and re-emerges within entangled particles. While both use quantum hardware, they serve very different goals. Shor's algorithm seeks computational advantage; Quantum Echoes seeks physical understanding.

So, the Willow experiment differs as its results can be verified through repeated measurements and signal-to-noise analysis. It represents progress in scientific reproducibility rather than in cryptographic power. But experts caution that some entities may already be storing encrypted information today to decrypt in the future. Regulators, including India's central bank, are urging organisations to transition to quantum-safe systems before the end of the decade.

How far is Q-Day?

Google's Quantum Echoes does not bring Q-day any closer. But it does mark a scientific milestone in understanding quantum behaviour. The experiment shows that quantum processors can now verify complex physical interactions within entangled systems – a sign of maturity in quantum science rather than a cybersecurity threat.

Dr. Priti Kumari is a research analyst at an international asset management company.

Govt. to start 700 KPS Magnet Schools in next two years

Organisations urge State to issue official order that no government schools will be closed

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Despite opposition, the Karnataka government has issued orders to start 700 government schools across the State as KPS Magnet Schools in the next two years.

The government had announced that it will start 900 KPS Magnet Schools across the States.

Out of this, steps have been taken to develop 500 KPS Magnet Schools in 2025-26 and 2026-27, under the State Budget grant and an Asian Development Bank loan, and an order in this regard was issued on October 15, 2025. In Kalyana Karnataka, it has been decided to upgrade 200 KPS Magnet Schools with the grant of the Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board (KKRDB), and an order in this regard was issued on November 29, 2025. The government has decided to develop each school at a cost of ₹2 crore to ₹4 crore.

There are about 47,493 government schools and pre-university colleges in Karnataka. Of these, 19,603 are primary schools, 21,676 are upper primary schools, 4,895 are high schools, and 1,319 are pre-university colleges. Currently, 309 schools have a combined system from LKG to class 12.

The enrolment of students in government schools has declined from 47.1 lakh in 2015-16 to 38.2 lakh in 2025-26 (19% less). The share of government schools in the total enrolment has declined from 46% to 38%. However, the share of private unaided schools has increased from 36.3 lakh students in 2015-16 to 47 lakh (29%) in 2025-26. The number of government schools with an enrolment of 50 or less students has increased to 25,683 in 2025-26.

The current gross enrolment ratio (GER) is 98.65% in the lower primary, 99.79% in the upper primary, and 96.08% in high schools. The drop-out rate is 2.50% in lower primary, 2.91% in upper primary, and 22.88% in high schools. It has been observed that there is a significant decrease in the number of students progressing to the high school level from the primary stage.

KPS Magnet Schools have been identified in each cluster using a scoring method based on grade coverage, enrolment, location, and infrastructure. It aims to create composite and resource schools with a minimum strength of 1,200 students to address the problems of small schools. It has been decided to merge small government schools within a radius of 1 to 5 km and transfer all their teachers to KPS Magnet Schools. Vehicle facilities will be provided to bring the children to these schools. But there has been strong opposition from the public, student organisations, and educationists to the merger.

"The State government should immediately withdraw the merger clause mentioned in its orders and issue a written order promising that schools with low enrolment will not be closed in the name of merging," said Ajay Kamath, State secretary, AIDSO.

The All India Save Education Committee too has demanded the withdrawal of the orders.

Students of government higher primary school in Ballari district protesting against the merger of their school with a KPS Magnet School. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Where they stand

- Total government schools and PU Colleges in Karnataka: **47,493**
- Total primary schools: **19,603**
- Higher primary schools: **21,676**
- High schools: **4,895**
- Government PU colleges: **1,319**
- Existing KPS school: **309**
- Enrolment in government schools declined by **19%** in last 10 years.
- Enrolment in private schools increased by **29%** in last 10 years.
- GER is **98.65%** in the lower primary schools.
- GER in higher primary schools is **99.79%.**
- GER in high school is **96.08%.**
- Drop-out rate in lower primary schools is **2.50%.**
- Drop-out rate in higher primary schools is **2.91%**
- Drop-out rate in high schools is **22.88%.**

New attendance system for Education Department staff

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

To effectively manage and monitor attendance of its staff, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has implemented mobile-based Karnataka Attendance Management System (KAMS) for all Deputy Directors of Public Instruction (DDPIs) and Block Education Officers (BEOs), including the staff of Commissionerate of Public Instruction in Bengaluru.

From December 1, the KAMS attendance system has been implemented in the Commissionerate of Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in place of the previous biometric attendance system.

This comes amid rising demand from the School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) to make KAMS attendance system mandatory for teachers as well to ensure quality education and prevent absenteeism.

Till now, the daily attendance and timekeeping of officers/staff in the School Education Department was being managed through the biometric hardware system.

Earlier. the biometric system was used to record attendance. FILE PHOTO

However, many shortcomings were found, such as maintenance of the machinery in the biometric system and the maintenance of reports or data.

In addition, the State government has taken steps to implement a uniform attendance management system in all government offices.

In this regard, the State government has developed the mobile-based KAMS, through the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (e-Governance). This technology is Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled and works on Facial Recognition and Geographical Information System (GIS).

In this attendance system, employees must mandatorily seed their Aadhaar details along with all their service information. Failing this, the monthly salary of such officers/staff will not be generated.

"A link has already been shared in the WhatsApp group of the Commissioner's office to make it mandatory for every officer/staff to register in the KMAS. A user manual and link have also been provided in English and Kannada versions of KAMS. In addition to stopping the salaries of officers and staff who do not register for the new attendance system, disciplinary action will be taken," the Commissioner of DPI warned.

Meanwhile, speaking to *The Hindu*, Umesh G. Gangavadi, State president of SDMC, urged that teachers too be included in the new system.

"Teacher absenteeism is common in government schools. Even the officials are not properly managing the attendance of teachers. It is common for many teachers to be absent from school without any reason on the pretext of office work. This is hampering quality education," he said.

New wine for old bottle

The official residence of the Governor sporting its new name, 'Lok Bhavan, Karnataka', following a directive from the Union Home Ministry and subsequent orders issued by the Governor. SUDHAKARA JAIN

'BJP should have ideally protested against Centre'

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakuamar has said that BJP leaders from the State should have ideally staged protest against the Union government instead of the State government, because it was the Centre which had meted out injustice to the farmers of the State.

Speaking to pressperson in Belagavi on Tuesday, Mr. Shivakumar said that injustice had been done to Karnataka by the Centre in the issues of maize, sugarcane and ethanol and no grant had been released by the Centre.

Mr. Shivakumar said that on the issue of Mahadayi river water sharing also, no decision had been taken by the Centre to help Karnataka and in the Mekedatu project also, the State received justice only after legal fight.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the Union government should have released ₹5,400 crore, which had not been released till date.

Mr. Shivakumar said that the State government had already initiated procurement of sugarcane, maize. However MSP was fixed by the Centre, and BJP leaders should have protested, he said.

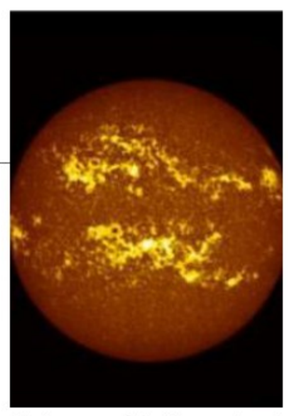
Aditya-L1 joins global effort revealing why the 2024 solar storm behaved unusually

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India's first solar observatory Aditya-L1, along with six U.S. satellites, in a major breakthrough, has revealed why the May 2024 solar storm also known as Gannon's storm behaved so unusually.

In May 2024, the earth faced the strongest solar storm in more than two decades, which disturbed Earth's environment severely.

The solar storm is composed of a series of giant explosions on the Sun, called coronal mass ejections (CMEs). CMEs are like massive bubbles of hot gas and magnetic energy thrown out from the Sun into space. When these bubbles hit Earth, they can shake our planet's magnetic shield and cause serious trouble for satellites, communication systems, GPS, and even power grids.


The images of the Sun captured by Aditya-L1 during May solar storm, released by the ISRO.

According to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), during the May 2024 solar storm, the Sun's magnetic fields, which are like twisted ropes inside a solar storm, were breaking and rejoining within the storm.

"Usually, a CME carries a twisted "magnetic rope" that interacts with Earth's magnetic shield as it approaches Earth. But this time, two CMEs collided in space and squeezed each other so firmly that the magnetic field lines inside one of them snapped and rejoined in new ways, a process called magnetic reconnection," ISRO said. It added that this sudden reversal of the magnetic field made the storm's impact stronger than expected.

"At the heart of this discovery is India's first solar observatory, Aditya-L1, which joined forces with six U.S. satellites (NASA's Wind, ACE, THEMIS-C, STEREO-A, MMS, and NASA-NOAA joint mission DSCOVR)," the ISRO said.

"Thanks to precise magnetic field measurements from India's Aditya-L1 mission, scientists were able to map this reconnection region. They found that the area where the CME's magnetic field was tearing and reconnecting was enormous – about 1.3 million km across, i.e., nearly 100 times the size of Earth. It was the first time such a giant magnetic breakup and rejoining had ever been seen inside a CME," it added.

This discovery is expected to enhance the understanding of how solar storms evolve as they travel from the Sun to Earth.

₹46,000 each transferred to Gruha Lakhsmi beneficiaries

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government has so far transferred ₹46,000 to each of the 1.24 crore beneficiaries of Gruha Lakshmi so far in 23 instalments, Women and Child Welfare Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar said.

Till August

She said: "The transfers have happened till August. As soon as the Finance Department approves, money is transferred to beneficiaries." She also acknowledged that the money has not been transferred since September this year.

Fruit vendor-turned-burglar caught

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Mahadevapura police have arrested a 33-year-old habitual offender and recovered 245 grams of gold valuables worth ₹29.4 lakh. The accused, identified as Mohammed Tanzim, a fruit vendor, had allegedly broken into the house of Subin Mathew at DRDO Township.

According to the police, Mathew had stepped out after locking his house when the accused, who had been keeping watch on the locality, made away with the gold. Following a complaint, the police tracked down Tanzim at C.V. Raman Nagar. Based on his information, the police recovered a portion of the gold from his residence and traced the remaining valuables to a pawn shop.

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I, Ganga Mithun Ajith Kumar R/o #13 3rd Cross Royal Enclave Bagalur Road, Sathanur Bengaluru - 562149 have changed my minor son's name from Advaith Ganga Mithun to Advaith Ganga Mithun Nair for all purposes.
I, MIR Hussain Ali, R/at #10/3, Alfred Street, Richmond Town, Museum Road, Bengaluru-560025, have changed my name from Mir Hussain Ali to Mir Hussain Ali Ajaz vide affidavit dated 09/12/2025 sworn before Notary B.M.Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

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Coram: Preet Simran Kour J.O
Code:JK00168
In the case of:
M/S Marazi Traders ... Plaintiff
V/s
Managing Director, Phalada Organic Consumer Products Private Ltd .. Defendant
Summon Through Publication
To, Managing Director, Phalada Organic Consumer Products Private Limited (Pure and Suure) 92/5, Kannalli Village Seegehalli, Magadi Mani Road Bangloor-560091; M : 9999150981,9513444519
The above titled case is pending disposal before this court and next date of hearing is fixed on 12.12.2025. Therefore, by virtue of this publication, you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court either in person or by pleader on 12.12.2025 at 10.30 A.M to put your defence in the suit, failing which the suit will be disposed of ex-parte against you.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 26.11.2025
Addl. District Judge

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ABSTRACT

Precious liquid: Women fetching water through the Jal Jeevan Mission water pipes installed at Malaichamypuram near Y. Othakadai in Madurai in July. ASHOK. R

Value of water: evaluating the pricelessness of clean, potable water

In a study conducted in Odisha, researchers have found that households value clean water far more than previously estimated, highlighting the need for effective water policies. This study contributes a new way of thinking about water valuation

Rebecca Rose Varghese

Burlig Fiona, Jina Amir and Sudarshan Anant, 'The Value of Clean Water: Experimental Evidence from Rural India', *Studies in Indian Politics*, NBER Working Paper 33557, 2025

Water is an essential resource with no substitute. Despite its fundamental importance, a large proportion of the global population lacks access to safe drinking water. Only 30% of people in low-income countries, and just 14% of those in rural areas, have reliable access to potable water, resulting in a significant decline in quality of life. India is no exception, with many communities facing persistent challenges in accessing safe water.

Discussions on water access and quality are widespread across development research, public policy, and global health, reflecting their importance to well-being and everyday life. Although there is extensive literature on how households obtain water, and on the technologies used to make it safe, much of existing research estimates valuation indirectly – through hedonic pricing, adoption of chlorine or filters, or studies of piped-water take-up. What remains far less explored is a direct measure of how much households value clean, potable water independent of the burdens of collection time, taste, labour, or irregular access that shape earlier estimates.

This paper contributes to research on improving access to clean water and joins a broader conversation within environmental economics literature on measuring how people in low-income countries value environmental quality. It addresses this gap by delivering clean water directly to households and observing real purchasing and exchange behaviour, measuring both Willingness to Pay (WTP) and Willingness to Accept (WTA) under conditions where non-monetary burdens are removed. This approach allows the study to examine how households order water, how sensitive they are to price, and whether they prefer receiving water or equivalent cash. In addition, the study assesses associated benefits, including changes in water sources, collection time, household water treatment practices, and self-reported health. In doing so, it offers a clearer picture of how people perceive the importance of water quality. It offers insights into interventions that could expand access to safe drinking water in contexts where infrastructure remains uneven, and treatment burdens fall heavily on households. The findings provide evidence that can inform effective and equitable drinking water policies in low-income settings.

Measuring the value

The study was conducted in Odisha, a State where access to water remains limited. As of 2021, Odisha ranked 32nd out of 37 States in piped water coverage, with 83% of households lacking connections. A 2023 survey found that 41% of villages still lacked safe drinking water. Water access has been a key local concern in the State, leading to protests and dissatisfaction among the population. Against this backdrop, the study implemented a randomised controlled trial across 160 villages, with successful execution in 99 villages where a private company already operated water treatment facilities. Households were randomly assigned to different experimental arms, allowing researchers to observe behaviour under conditions where clean water was delivered directly, removing typical burdens of collection, transport, and taste-related aversion, and capturing variations across income, water habits, and baseline access.

Households were assigned to one of three experimental arms designed to reveal distinct dimensions of valuation. In the price arm, households could purchase clean, home-delivered water at several subsidised price points. Observing the quantity ordered at each price allowed researchers to estimate willingness to pay based on revealed behaviour and identify price sensitivity. This arm also provided a comparison to prior studies that focused on demand for treatment technologies rather than clean water itself.

In the free-water arm, households received potable water at zero price, serving as an unconstrained benchmark. The quantity consumed in this arm reflected genuine demand independent of financial limitations and provided a contrast with the price arm to separate preference from affordability.

The exchangeable entitlement arm offered households entitlements that could either be redeemed for water or exchanged for cash of equivalent value. Their choices revealed willingness to accept compensation to forgo clean water, which is particularly meaningful in low-income contexts with limited substitutes and where governments often provide cash transfers.

Randomisation within villages ensured that differences in behaviour were attributable to treatment conditions rather than geographic or infrastructural disparities. By removing the non-monetary costs associated with traditional water access, the study captured a more accurate picture of how households value clean water. In doing so, it provides policy-relevant insights on how to structure water delivery, subsidies, and interventions in settings where infrastructure and treatment burdens fall heavily on households.

Valuing clean water

The study's findings reveal several important patterns regarding how households perceive and value clean water. Both WTP and WTA estimates were substantially higher than those reported in earlier studies that relied on indirect measures, such as chlorine adoption or time-use patterns, suggesting that prior work underestimated the true value of potable water due to the bundled inconveniences of collection and treatment. WTA values, in particular, were strikingly high, indicating households' strong reluctance to forgo clean water even when offered cash. While demand did respond to price increases, the decline was moderate, highlighting that clean water is considered a necessity rather than a discretionary good. In the exchangeable entitlement arm, many households chose water over equivalent cash, reinforcing the preference for guaranteed access over short-term monetary gain. Access to home-delivered water also led households to shift away from less reliable sources, reducing collection time and alleviating burdens that disproportionately affect a few. Finally, although health outcomes were self-reported, households indicated improvements in physical well-being, suggesting immediate perceived benefits from reliable clean water access.

Understanding choices

These findings highlight an important insight: when clean water is made easily accessible, households demonstrate a far higher valuation than previously assumed. This challenges common interpretations that low-income households do not care about water quality or are unwilling to pay for treatment. Instead, what they resist are the associated inconveniences – taste, effort, labour, and uncertainty.

By isolating water quality from these burdens, the study shows that people value purity deeply, and that their choices reflect a practical understanding of its importance for health and daily functioning. The strong WTP-WTA gap also reflects a psychological dimension: households may be wary of losing access once they experience the benefits of reliable, safe water.

This study, therefore, contributes a new way of thinking about water valuation, one that centres the service rather than the technology. It suggests that uptake of chlorine or filters may not reflect low valuation of cleanliness but instead reflect aversion to the method of treatment due to difficulties in adoption or financial constraints.

While it would have been interesting to also examine quantifiable health improvements rather than relying solely on self-reported outcomes, the behavioural evidence remains compelling.

The findings point to actionable government strategies: support decentralised, home-delivery models in areas with limited piped infrastructure; provide subsidies or pricing aligned with households' willingness to pay; and integrate entitlement-based systems for vulnerable households to ensure universal access. Such measures can act as effective interim solutions while long-term infrastructure is expanded.

The study reframes water access, not as technology adoption, but as making safe water easy, reliable, and dignified, and contributes to our understanding of household perceptions of water.

Rebecca Rose Varghese is a freelance journalist.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The Nobel prize award ceremony starts every year on December 10. Here is a quiz on the prestigious prize and its awardees

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
Initially only five fields were considered for the awards. Which of the current six fields was not among this?

QUESTION 2
Name the institution that established the prize in the field mentioned in question 1.

QUESTION 3
What is the maximum number of people who can share a Nobel?

QUESTION 4
Name the youngest and oldest Nobel laureates.

QUESTION 5
Who is the first Indian to win a Nobel?

Visual question:
Name this writer who famously declined a Nobel awarded for literature. FILE PHOTO

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The Genocide Convention was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on this date. **Ans: December 9, 1948**
2. The Convention entered into force and became legally effective on this date. **Ans: January 12, 1951**
3. Number of states which are party to the Convention. **Ans: 153 state parties**
4. The four types of groups protected under the Convention's definition of 'genocide'. **Ans: National, ethnic, racial, or religious groups**
5. Does the Genocide Convention recognise cultural genocide or political genocide in its definition of genocide? **Ans: No**
Visual: Identify the man. **Ans: Raphael Lemkin. He was a Polish-Jewish lawyer who invented the term 'genocide'. He was the key advocate whose efforts pushed the UN to adopt the Genocide Convention**
Early Birds: Tito Shiladitya| Haridas Pal| Jagrati Shukla| Nitin Das| Sadhan Panda

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of 'five o'clock shadow'? (S. Gopi, Trivandrum)
Some men shave every day before leaving for work. But by the time they return home in the evening, they find that some of the hair they had so carefully removed in the morning has grown back. This stubbly growth that a man has on his face at the end of the day is referred to as the five o'clock shadow. It is an informal expression and it is thought that it is the brainchild of the advertising company that promoted Gem razors and blades. "That unsightly beard growth which appears prematurely at about 5 p.m. looks bad" was one of their advertisements. Richard Nixon, the former American President, was a man who had a perpetual five o'clock shadow. Some political analysts have said that Nixon may have lost the TV debates in the U.S. Presidential race to John Kennedy in 1960 because of his five o'clock shadow. In his Memoirs, Nixon has this to say about his television debates with Kennedy: "Kennedy arrived... looking tanned, rested and fit. My television adviser, Ted Rodgers, recommended that I use television make-up, but unwisely I refused, permitting only a little 'beard stick' on my perpetual five o'clock shadow."

What does 'being on the wrong side of thirty' mean? (T. Santhana Krishnan, Vellore)
When you say that you are on the wrong side of thirty, it means that you are more than thirty years of age. Here are a few examples. Anitha cannot apply for the job because she is on the wrong side of twenty five (Meaning she is more than twenty five). Madhuri claims to be twenty five, but if you ask me, she is on the wrong side of thirty. If you wish to say that you are younger than thirty, then you use the expression 'on the right side of thirty'. For example, Madhusudan is on the right side of thirty. I am on the wrong side of forty, but my younger brother is on the right side of forty.

What does 'man Friday' mean? (Dr. S. Vaidyanathan, T.Nagar, Chennai)
Friday is the name of a character who appears in Daniel Defoe's well known work of fiction, 'Robinson Crusoe'. He is a savage whom Crusoe finds on an island. Crusoe names the savage 'Friday' because he first encounters him on a Friday. Friday becomes Robin's constant companion and assists him in everything. So when you refer to a man as being your 'man Friday', it means that he is a faithful and willing attendant, ready to do whatever you tell him to do. For example, Jeeves was Betram Wooster's man Friday. Many people in our office believe that Balaraman is our Chairman's man Friday. If the faithful attendant happens to be a woman, then you refer to her as 'girl Friday'. And 'girl Friday', like 'man Friday', does all the important and useful jobs that her boss wants to be done. A female secretary is often referred to as 'girl Friday'.

For example, as soon as my boss had a problem, he rang for Achala, his girl Friday.

Published in The Hindu on December 8, 1998.

Word of the day

Scurry: rushing about hastily in an undignified way; to move about or proceed hurriedly

Synonyms: scamper, scramble, scuttle, skitter

Usage: *The girls scurried over to him.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/scurrypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈskʌɹi/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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'India has to move from service provider to a product nation'

India's maiden full-fledged summit on supercomputing kicks-off in Yelahanka, featuring advanced computer technologies by 175 firms

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India has a huge need to move from a service provider to a product nation, taking advantage of emerging technologies, including quantum computing, high performance computing and artificial intelligence, said Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology, here on Tuesday.

The Minister was addressing online supercomputing experts and entrepreneurs and policy makers gathered from across India and overseas at the inaugural ceremony of the maiden edition of Supercomputing India 2025 (SCI 2025) held at the Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT), Yelahanka.

Speaking on the occasion, Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology, highlighted that the government has various mission mode programmes which have been initiated as part of moving towards a product nation.

Responding to a query on why quantum computing has suddenly received so much hype, Thomas Zacharia, senior vice president, technology partnership at AMD, on the sidelines of the conference, told *The Hindu* that this technology has been demonstrated as useful in specific cases, and increasingly becoming relevant in recent years.

Ashwini Vaishnaw

"So the excitement is that, while it has been a promise, today quantum computing can be utilised be for very specific and important applications that cannot be done in any other way, which is why it's exciting," he explained.

However, he agreed every technology has a hype cycle, but what we're talking about here is that quantum computers have very good systems for quantum mechanical systems. So a certain class of problems can be effectively solved using quantum computers. And today, if we have demonstrated with a sufficient number of cubits that we can get real life solutions to where it is applicable, Mr. Zacharia explained.

SCI 2025 is India's first comprehensive conference on high-performance computing, artificial intelligence and quantum computing, organised by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under the aegis of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) and joined by global collaborators.

> So the excitement is that, while it has been a promise, today quantum computing can be utilised be for very specific and important applications that cannot be done in any other way, which is why it's exciting
>
> **THOMAS ZACHARIA,**
> Senior vice president, technology partnership at AMD

Authority asks State Police Chief to rein in traffic police personnel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Police Complaints Authority has written to the head of the State Police, urging strict directions to curb growing instances of misbehaviour, harassment, and assault of vehicle users by traffic police personnel during routine inspections and checking drives.

In a letter sent on Monday, Mohan Kumar Danappa, member of the authority, requested M.A. Saleem, DG & IGP, Karnataka State Police, to issue necessary circulars to ensure that traffic police officers mend their behaviour.

Mr. Danappa said that repeated incidents of misconduct and misuse of power by a section of officers and staff were tarnishing the reputation of the entire department.

He noted that although several circulars and reminders had been issued in the past, reports of bad police behaviour continue to surface frequently on social media and in the press.

The letter cited recent incidents, including the death of a child during a traffic check in Mandya district, and the assault of a transport bus driver by a constable in Vijayanagara district, both of which went viral on social media.

The authority has already taken *suo motu* cognisance of these cases and initiated inquiries, he said.

"These recurring incidents not only bring disrepute to the Karnataka State Police but also create a perception that it is anti-people," Mr. Danappa said in his letter. "Even officers who work honestly and maintain discipline are being viewed with disrespect because of this," he said.

Following such instances, Dr. Saleem this June issued directions to police personnel across the State to refrain from random vehicle checks without valid reasons. Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh had also stressed on contactless enforcement. However, random checks seem to be a reality on the city's streets.

Youth killed in Hassan, accused posts clip of act on social media

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The police traced the body after the video clip went viral

A 21-year-old man was found murdered at Bittagowdanahalli, near Hassan, on Tuesday. The murder came to light after one of the accused posted a video clip admitting to the crime on a social media platform. The police have identified the deceased as Keerthi, a resident of Huvinahalli near Hassan. It is suspected that three of his friends, with whom he went out on Monday evening for a party, murdered him.

The police traced the body after the video clip, posted by Ullas, went viral on Tuesday. Keerthi's brother, Kiran, has filed a complaint with Hassan Town Police. He named Ullas and others as the accused in the case. The police registered the case under the SC-ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, apart from other Sections of the BNS, 2023. Efforts to arrest the accused are under way. The police suspect that the accused committed the crime under the influence of ganja and later recorded the video of their act.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (December 10, Wednesday), the following articles are available:

- Lessons from recent transport crises **newsth.live/transportcrisexp**
- New research traces how Africa's wildcats became today's house cats **newsth.live/wildcats**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Leaks in Pravasi Soudha

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Seepages have been reported in the newly-inaugurated Karnataka Pravasi Soudha, constructed at a cost of over ₹200 crore. According to BJP member S.R. Vishwanath, several rooms of the total 358 rooms are leaking.

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS for Providing Services on monthly Contract Basis–TWO COVER–ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM (E-Submission)

IFB No.	17/F.JJM - Outsourcing Lab/DO(T5)/CE/CBE/2026/Dated.08.12.2025.
Eligibility	NGOs/Trusts/Women SHGs
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Coimbatore
Downloading Period	**11.12.2025** to **29.12.2025** upto **15.00** hours
EMD Payable	Online Mode (or) e BG through e-Tendering website **https://tntenders.gov.in**
Pre-Bid meeting	**19.12.2025** at **11.00** hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**29.12.2025** before **15.00** hours at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Bid opening	**30.12.2025** at **15.30** hours at the office of Tender Invitee through E-Tender Portal

IFB No.	Name of work	Appx. value (including 18% GST)	Bid Security
17	TWAD Board Coimbatore Region–EngagingOutsourced manpower services for 7 District Level Water Testing Laboratory, 12 Sub District Level Laboratories and 6 Block Level laboratories for the period from 01.01.2026 to 30.11.2026 on monthly contract basis under JJM 2025-26.	Rs. 5.27 Crore	Rs.4.00 lakh

DIPR/ 6559 /TENDER/2025 — Chief Engineer, (i/c), TWAD Board, Coimbatore.
SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-TENDER LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

e-Tenders is invited from the eligible bidders for the following work as per the procedure of CMWSSB under single cover system conforming to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000.

Sl. No.	Name of work and Tender No.	Earnest Money Deposit	Eligibility	e-Bid Submission closing Date	e-Bid Opening Date
1	Outsourcing the Operation and Maintenance of 4 nos of SPS under Madipakkam UGSS for a period of three years in Area XIV. CNT/SEW/MWB/3707/2025-26	Rs. 1,92,500.00	Class IB	30.12.2025 upto 3.00 p.m	31.12.2025 after 3:00 p.m
3	EMD by online transfer only through tender Portal. The tenderer shall submit scanned copy of online transaction statement towards EMD as part of Tender document.				
3	Last date for submitting applications for issuance of work site inspection certificates to the concerned Executive Engineer / Superintending Engineer for having visited the site of work is 48 hours before the tender submission date.				
4	Availability of tender documents and e-bid submission is permitted through tender portal / website: **www.tntenders.gov.in** For all other details refer tender schedule in the website from **11.12.2025.**				

DIPR/6538/Tender/2025 — Superintending Engineer (Contracts & Monitoring)

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA
e-mail - serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
Letter No. 6550 — **1st Corrigendum** — Date: 08.12.2025

In continuation to this office Bid Identification No. **CCERWCSBD-Online-23/2025-26** invited vide this office Notice No.5576 Dtd.30.10.2025, partial modification of NCB has been made as follows :-

Sl No.	Item	Time Schedule as per original NCB	Time Schedule as per 1st Corrigendum notice
1	Availability of Tender online for bidding	10.11.2025 at 11.00 AM to 09.12.2025 up to 5.00 PM	**Extended up to 30.12.2025 5.00 PM**
2	Date and Time of seeking tender clarification if any	08.12.2025 up to 2.00 PM	**29.12.2025 up to 2.00 PM**
3	Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical Bid)	10.12.2025 at 11.00 AM	**31.12.2025 at 11.00 AM**
4	Date & Time of opening of tender (Price Bid)	Will be intimated later on to the successful bidders	**Will be intimated later on to the successful bidders**

All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered.
O-1743: **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.**
OIPR-25182/11/0108/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR
AT-CHANDIKHOL, PO- SUNGUDA, JAJPUR -754296, Email-serw_kpd@yahoo.com
No:Tender Online RCK - 20/25 — **e-Procurement NOTICE** — Letter No.- 4008 Date:-27.11.25

1. Name of the Work : Tender for the Road works under (MMSY-TRIP) in the Dist. of Kendrapara & Jajpur.
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the Column-6 of the Annexure.
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure.
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of opening of tender Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur	Tender Online RCK- 20/25	10.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	29.12.2025 to 05.00 P.M.	29.12.2025 up to 02.00 P.M.	30.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
O-1651 : **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur**
OIPR-25129/11/0069/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.
Letter No. — email : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com — Date:
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e_Procurement Notice

1. Name of the Work : **Construction of Road Works - 07 Nos.**
2. Class of Contractor : **"B" Class, "A" Class & Special Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.**
3. Estimated Cost : **Varies from Rs.103.00 Lakhs to Rs.778.50 Lakhs (Approximately)**
4. Details of projects : As per Annexure attached.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	Availability of Tender online for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of opening of tender Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCSBD - Online - 35/2025-26	10.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	30.12.2025 up to 05.00 P.M.	29.12.2025 up to 2.00 P.M.	31.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site : **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
6. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.

O-1706: **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.**
OIPR-25182/11/0112/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
No:- 4503 /WE, Dt:-29/11/2025
"e" - Procurement Notice

1. Name of the Work : "Building Works."
1. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure
2. Time for Completion : As per Annexure
3. No of Work : As per Annexure
4. Summary for key dates is provided below :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Financial Bid
1	2	3	4		5	6
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore.	N.C.B No.53 of 2025-26	Dt.10.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.23.12.2025 Up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.22.12.2025 Up to 1.00 P.M.	Dt.24.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
Any other changes/Corrigendums may be seen only in website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
S/d:-Er.Durjyodhan Behera
O-1678: **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore**
OIPR-25105/11/0098/2526

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Through KPP Portal Only)
BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage Tender System from eligible Contractors for the following Works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount
Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.		
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(E)/ACE(E)/DCE(M)-1/TA(E)/5424/2025-26		**Date: 08-12-2025**
1	Work of Providing and Laying 600 mm Dia MS Water Supply Pipeline, 450 mm Dia MS Pipeline, 100 mm Dia DI Pipeline to facilitate under Pass Construction Work Proposed by BBMP at Hope Farm Circle, Whitefield coming under the Jurisdiction of Hoodi S/s. of AEE(E)-1-1 Sub Division.	Rs. 138.22 Lakhs / Rs. 2,07,400/-
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(E)/ACE(E)/DCE(M)-1/TA(E)/5428/2025-26		**Date: 08-12-2025**
2	Work of Providing and Laying of 300 mm Dia RCC NP-3 Class Pipeline in the Place of 300 mm Dia & 150 mm Dia SW Pipeline with Construction of New Machinehole (In Order to Avoid Overflow of Sewage from Machinehole into SWD which is against NGT norms) From 13th Main Road 100 feet Road to 13th Main 5th Cross, 13th A Main, 13th B Main, 13th C Main 13th H G Main Road and Surrounding Area Indiranagar coming under Indiranagar Service Station of AEE SE-4 Sub Division.	Rs. 151.38 Lakhs / Rs. 2,28,000/-
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(E)/ACE(E)/DCE(M)-1/TA(E)/5427/2025-26		**Date: 08-12-2025**
3	Work of Providing and Laying 300 mm Dia RCC NP-3 Class Pipeline in Place of 230 mm Dia Silted and Damaged SW Pipeline along with Construction of New Machineholes at 1st Cross, 2nd Cross, 3rd Cross, 4th Cross Opposite to Ganesha Temple Road New Thippasandra under JBN S/s. of AEE SE-4 Sub Division.	Rs. 114.11 Lakhs / Rs. 1,71,200/-

For both the above works, Last Date for Receipt of Tenders: **26-12-2025 upto 16.00 Hours.**
Tenders will be Opened on: **29-12-2025 after 16.00 Hours.** **Sd/- Chief Engineer (East)**

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE(CStr & DCW)/TA/5469/2025-26		**Date: 09-12-2025**
4	Work of Modernisation & Remodelling of Water Supply System and Reduction in UFW in Kathriguppe of Existing SW2DMA06 DMA coming under AEESW-4 Sub Division Limit of BWSSB, Bengaluru .	Rs. 365.01 Lakhs / Rs. 3.65 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE(CStr & DCW)/TA/5475/2025-26		**Date: 09-12-2025**
5	Work of Modernisation & Remodelling of Water Supply System and Reduction in UFW in Channammanakere Achukattu and Surrounding Areas of Existing SW2DMA04 DMA coming under AEESW-4 Sub Division Limit of BWSSB, Bengaluru.	Rs. 366.13 Lakhs / Rs. 3.67 Lakhs

For both the above works, Last Date for Receipt of Tenders: **24-12-2025 upto 15.00 Hours.**
Tenders will be Opened on: **26-12-2025 at 16.00 Hours.** **Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief**

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/Adverto/4312/2025-26

Karnataka State Mental Health Authority
Health and Family Welfare Department
Aroghya Soudha, 4th Floor, Magadi Main Road, Bengaluru-560023.
E-mail: ksmha1@gmail.com

No: KSMHA/EST/10/2025-26 — Date: 04.12.2025

NOTIFICATION
Walk-In Interview for two posts under Karnataka State Mental Health Authority

Karnataka State Mental Health Authority (KSMHA) invites eligible candidates for Walk-in-interview for the following two vacant posts. The positions are temporary and purely on a contractual Basis. Walk-in-interview has been scheduled on 23.12.2025 @ 10 am in the office of Director, HFW and Member Secretary, KSMHA, 6th Floor, Arogya Soudha, Magadi Road, Opp. to Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Metro Station, Bengaluru-560023.

Sl No.	Designations	No. of Posts	Essential Qualification	Experience Required	Experience of Desirable	Age Limit	Consolidated Salary Per Month
1.	Programme Consultant	01	MD degree Psychiatry/ DPM in Psychiatry or DNB in Psychiaty or MD in Community Medicine With 3 years experience	03 Years	03 years' experience in Mental health or any other public health program	40	80,000/-
2.	Legal Consultant	01	Should be a law graduate from any recognized university and should be enrolled in Bar council.	02 Years	Rendered legal Consultation Service to Government sectors / Health Mental Health for 02 years or more	50	50,000/-

Note:
1. Speaking, Reading, Writing in Kannada & English Language.
2. Proficiency in Computer i.e. MS word, Excel & power point
3. No TA/DA will admissible for attending is preferable.
4. Candidate with similar past experience is preferable.
5. For any queries contact 080-29559040 during officer hours only.
6. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all applications and cancel the notification at any stage of recruitment without assigning any reasons thereof.
7. Full time course is mandatory and Course must be completed from recognized university.
8. Candidates should bring all the original documents/ certificates and self-attested copies (XEROX) and a copy of latest updated CV, latest passport size Photo and valid ID proof (Aadhar Card/PAN/DL/Voter ID)
9. Only successful candidates in the interview process will get the communication and the rest will be treated as not considered.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer,
Karnataka State Mental Health Authority, and Commissioner,
Health & Family Welfare Services

DIPR/CP/4327/CCL/2025-26

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Prof. Dr. T. S. Subbiah
M.S., F.I.C.S,
Formerly Head of Department & Professor, Department of General Surgery, Madras Medical College.
22/02/1937 - 10/12/2024

Lovingly Remembered By
Justice T S Sivagnanam
Dr Krishnaveni Sivagnanam
Dr. T. S. Subbiah
Mrs Vasantha Subbiah
Ms Krithyashri Subbiah
Mr T S Sundaram
Mrs Sarada Vennimalai
Mr M Vennimalai
Mr V Manickavasagam
Mrs Nikita Vergis
Dr V Subbiah
Mrs Vardhini Murugan
Dr M Murugan
Dr M Manickavasagam
Dr Oviyal M
Ms M Papakumari

A healer of many, a hero to his family and a dedicated teacher. He leaves behind a legacy of wisdom, kindness, and compassion.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SECOND ANNIVERSARY

M Vetrivel
Retd. Commandant RPSF
DOB: 17.06.1932 - DOD: 09.12.2023
Fondly remembered by
Family Members, Relatives & Friends
Mob: 98402-99479

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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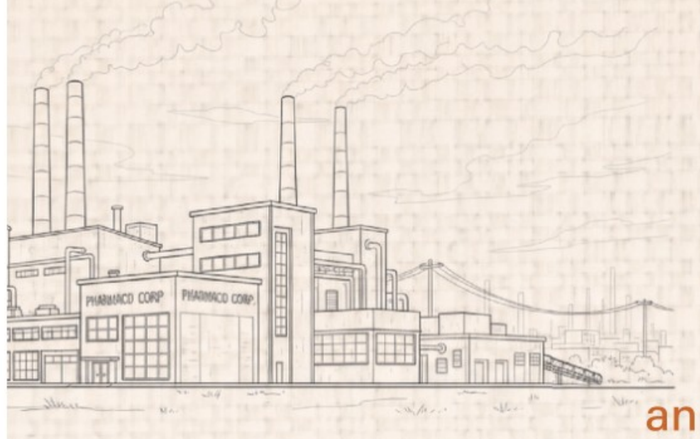
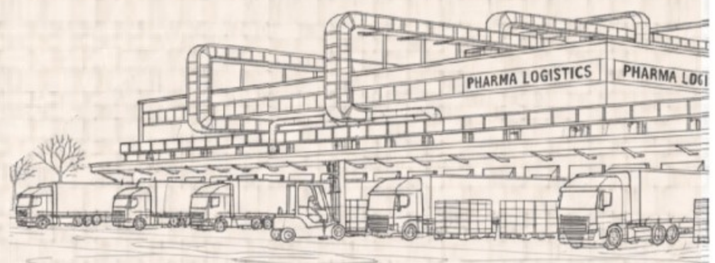
16 DECEMBER 2025, BHUBANESWAR

an Investors' Meet dedicated for the Pharmaceuticals, Medical Devices and other Healthcare Sectors





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Seize emerging Opportunities :

Formulations
API
Medical Devices, Disposables, etc.
Biotechnology
Pharma Ancillary (Packaging, Vials, Films, etc.)

Date : 16th December | Time: 10:00 AM onwards | Venue: Taj Vivanta, Bhubaneswar

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DSPL-394

Schedule a Meeting/ Site Visit at

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ed@investodisha.org

CGM, IPICOL
Mob : +91 99553 27527
rajibdhal@investodisha.org

INVEST IN ODISHA
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OIPR-14005/13/0075/2526

A BG-BGE

Khandre seeks CID probe affter attempt to grab forest land

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking a CID probe against a person who submitted fake documents to allegedly grab 532 acres of forest and government land.

According to Mr. Khandre, a person named Nemanna Gowda filed a writ petition in the High Court.

Based on the order of the Special Deputy Commissioner of Hassan under the Inam Abolition Act, he received an order directing authorities to transfer to his name within three months the documents of 532 acres, including 482 acres of reserved forest land in B.M. Kaval near Kengeri, which he claimed were granted to him.

He stated in his letter that until one day before the 90-day deadline, the Additional Government Counsel did not inform the government or the Forest Department about this matter.

The Minister alleged that instead, the Additional Government Counsel stated that this was not a suitable case for filing an appeal and thereby acting in favour of the petitioner.

He added that when the Forest Department came to know about this land, which is said to be worth ₹25,000 crore, he conducted a meeting and instructed officials to file an appeal.

He said that this person had earlier too attempted to claim rights over government land using false and forged documents.

In regard to this, Mr. Khandre wrote that the then Sub-Divisional Officer of Chikkamagaluru district, Debjit Kumar in September 2024, had ordered a criminal case be registered against this person.

In his letter, the Minister added that as soon as the B.M. Kaval issue came to his notice, instructions were given to file a complaint at the Chikkamagaluru police station.

Labour code: Karnataka keen to convene meeting of Ministers from all southern States

In Karnataka, the minimum wage issue has been hanging fire ever some codes were notified

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BELAGAVI

The Congress government in Karnataka is likely to convene a conclave of Labour Ministers from Southern States in January to discuss and formulate their response to the four Labour Codes that the Centre notified recently.

The crucial minimum wages revision in Karnataka, pending from 2022-23, is now hanging in the balance even as the State is expected to write to the Centre highlighting the lacunae in the Labour Code.

The Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, that will replace 29 labour legislation in the country were notified on November 21. Labour Department sources told *The Hindu* that the Labour Ministers from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are likely to participate in the discussions on the four Labour Codes. Sources also said that the Kerala Labour Minister has written to Karnataka government on the Labour Code issue.

Labour Minister Santosh Lad

Labour Minister Santhosh Lad is expected to write to the Centre about the State government's objection to the Labour Code, said a source, terming the codes a "bunch of contradiction besides being anti -labour". The codes, he said, will not encourage permanent employment in the industrial sector in the future.

After the draft was notified in April, 2025, proposing revision of minimum wages in the band between ₹19,000 and about ₹31,000, depending on skills and location, the State government is yet to issue final notification.

The proposed minimum wages – pending for revision for over three years – was drafted based on the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in the Raptakos Brett case, but has been opposed by the employers.

Sources claimed that the government has received over 40,000 objections against the proposed minimum wages.

Over the confusion and delay in implementation of minimum wages after the codes were notified in November, the source asked, "How can the Centre outline uniform wages or decide on the minimum wages in States? Labour is a concurrent subject."

Sources in the Labour Department said that while the department was expecting to meet the Chief Minister on the minimum wages issue, it got postponed amid the tussle of leadership and talk of rotation of power. "We are hoping for a positive decision at the earliest in this regard," said the source.

KC General Hospital gets CBNAAT machine

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a boost to Karnataka's efforts to eliminate tuberculosis by 2025, KC General Hospital in Bengaluru has received an additional Cartridge-Based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (CBNAAT) machine, aimed at reducing delays in diagnosis for the city's large patient load.

The hospital, a major tertiary care centre in the heart of the city, has been struggling with an overwhelmed TB testing capacity despite having one CBNAAT unit already in place. The new machine is expected to significantly improve turnaround time for test results.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao inaugurated the new equipment on Thursday. Speaking at the event, he said that Syngenta India Pvt. Ltd., under its CSR initiative, has provided seven CBNAAT machines worth around ₹1.5 crore for public use. "Three machines have been allocated to Vijayanagar district, three to Kolar district, and one to KC General Hospital," he said.

The CBNAAT technology, endorsed by the World Health Organisation in 2010, can detect TB and rifampicin resistance within two hours.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10	
RISE 06:31	SET 17:54
RISE 23:23	SET 11:22
THURSDAY, DEC. 11	
RISE 06:31	SET 17:54
RISE 00:00	SET 12:00
FRIDAY, DEC. 12	
RISE 06:32	SET 17:55
RISE 00:12	SET 12:36

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	20
Mysuru	29	17
Bengaluru	29	18

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to occur.

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All rights reserved.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Lokseva Bhawan, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar - 751001
HE-SCH-PLAN-0059-2025/67221/H.E., Bhubaneswar, Dated: 09/12/2025

CORRIGENDUM-IV

NOTICE INVITING RFP FOR ENGAGEMENT OF STATE PSU/ CENTRAL PSU/DEPARTMENTAL UNDERTAKING AS PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PMC) FOR "CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR/ RENOVATION ACROSS FIVE STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, ODISHA UNDER PM USHA.

In continuation to the Request for Proposal (RFP) No. PM-USHA:01/2025 dated 09.10.2025, the following changes are hereby issued.

Sl. No.	RFP Cl.No.	P. No.	Description	Modified Provisions
1.	15.e	19	**Revised (Corrigendum-1, Dt.29.10.2025):** The Agency shall submit an irrevocable Performance Guarantee/Security of 3% (Three Percent) of the total contract value for proper performance and due fulfilment of the terms and conditions of the contract within 30 days from the date of issue of letter of Acceptance by the Higher Education Departmen, Govt. of Odisha. The guarantee shall be in the form of Account Payee Demand Draft, Bank Guarantee including e- Bank Guarantee or Fixed Deposit Receipts (FDR) and will be released after the project completed and handed over.	The Agency shall submit an irrevocable Performance Guarantee/Security of **3% (Three Percent) of the PMC Service Charges** for proper performance and due fulfilment of the terms and conditions of the contract by the Higher Education Department, Govt. of Odisha and before signing the agreement with respective universities. The guarantee shall be in the form of Account Payee Demand Draft, Bank Guarantee including e- Bank Guarantee or Fixed Deposit Receipts (FDR) and will be released after the project completed and handed over.

N-231 Special Secretary to Govt. & SPD, RUSA/PM-USHA
OIPR-11001/11/0122/2526

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 23/2025–26/2602–06 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 08–12–2025

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4 ರನ್ವಯ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 5054–ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ರಸ್ತೆ – ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಅಪೆಂಡಿಕ್ಸ್–ಇ ಅಡಿಯ 1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 29332) ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ 1ನೇ ಕರೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 359.50 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22–12–2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸ ಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ/ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ.

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ಶಿಡ್ಲಘಟ್ಟ ರಸ್ತೆ,
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08156–277011, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್:08156–277011,
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್:**ceozpcbpur@gmail.com**

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಜಿಪಂಚಿ/ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ/ನರೇಗಾ/ಸಿಆರ್/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.12.2025

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ: ಮಹಾತ್ಮಗಾಂಧಿ ನರೇಗಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ. ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಮಹಾತ್ಮಗಾಂಧಿ ನರೇಗಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ 03 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ; **9986276302**. **Particulars: (1)** Start date for Uploading the Tender document in e-portal: **06.12.2025 from 16.00 am Onwards**. **(2)** Pre-Bid Meeting Date, Time & Place: **16.12.2025 at 11:30 am (Venue: Zilla Panchayath, Chikkaballapura) (3)** Last Date for receiving pre-bid queries: Date:**16.12.2025 Before 3 PM (4)** Last Date for submission of proposals in e-portal: **05.01.2026 upto 16:00 Hr (5)** Opening of Technical Bids in the e-portal: **06.01.2026 after 16:0 Hr (6)** Opening of Financial Bids of Technically qualified Bidders: **13.01.2026 @ 11.00 Hr If Possible**

ಸಹಿ/–ಉಪ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:293/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ
BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY
Office of the Registrar, Jnana Jyothi Central College Campus, Dr. B.R Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001. E-mail: bcuacct@gmail.com, Ph.No.080-22961016, 22131366

Tender No: BCU/2025-26/AUCTION Date: 08.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement portal only)

Name of the work	E-Auction for Investment of Surplus Funds in fixed deposits
EMD amount	Rs. 1000/-
Last date for queries	11.12.2025
Last Date To Upload Tender Document	16.12.2025
Date Of Evalution	20.12.2025
Participation Of Bid Auction Date	23.12.2025

Note: Payment of Tender processing fee and EMD amount as per E-procurement Portal.

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPR/CP/4321/SSC/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER - Call-3
(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bengaluru-560 009

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
(South) -1	BWSSB/EES-1/ AE/TO/2767/ 2025-26 Date:08.12.2025	Rs.85,58,731/- / Rs.1,71,200/-	19.12.2025 Up to 4.00 P.M.	22.12.2025 after 4.00 P.M.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-1)

The details regarding the tender & participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/DD-C.P/4329/KSMCA/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/South-Circle/EE(O)/AEE-2/25-26/F-310(06)/4103-04 Date: 08-12-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites bid against **Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/S-Circle/EE(O)/AEE-2/25-26/EPR-19/Call-1 Dt:28.11.2025** for "Supply, Erection, testing and commissioning of DG set: 58.5kVA Diesel Generator set, rated at 58.5kVA, 415V, 0.8pf, mounted on a base frame, complete with inbuilt fuel tank and battery 1 No. 12V & inbuilt standard manual Control Panel with acoustic enclosure: NAL Approved DG set 58.5kVA capacity with AMF panel as per specification at 220/66/11kV R/s Somanahalli in Operation Division, Somanahalli, Bengaluru on Total turnkey basis"

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 10.12.2025.** Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec.,)
Transmission (Operation) Circle-South , KPTCL,
Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru - 09.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of Assistant Conservator of Forest,
Forest Department, 2nd Floor, Palike Soudha,
MC Layout, Govindarajanagara, Bengaluru 560 040

No.: ACF/BWCC/TENDER/PR/32/2025-26 Date: 09.12.2025

SHORT TIME TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Only Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

The Assistant Conservator of Forests, BWCC, Bengaluru invites tender two cover systems from eligible bidders for the following.

Following is the Events of Bid process:

Sl. No.	Tender Name
1	Rapid Response Team for Tree Removal in Malleshwaram Zone. (Malleshwaram, Rajajinagara, Govindarajanagara, Vijayanagara, Basavanagudi, Padmanabhanagara assembly constituencies). **Tender Reference Number: BWCC/2025-26/SE0001.**
2	Rapid Response Team for Tree Removal in R R Nagara Zone, (R.R. Nagara, Yeshwanthapura, Dasarahalli, Mahalakshmi Layout assembly constituencies). **Tender Reference Number: BWCC/2025-26/SE0002.**
3	Providing crane services on hire basis in Malleshwaram Zone (Malleshwaram, Rajajinagara, Govindarajanagara, Vijayanagara, Basavanagudi, Padmanabhanagara assembly constituencies). **Tender Reference Number: BWCC/2025-26/SE0003.**
4	Providing crane services on hire basis in R R Nagara Zone, (R.R. Nagara, Yeshwanthapura, Dasarahalli, Mahalakshmi Layout). **Tender Reference Number: BWCC/2025-26/SE0004.**
5	Providing Cylindrical shape Metal Tree Guards for Bengaluru West City Corporation. **Tender Reference Number: BWCC/2025-26/IND0001.**

Time Schedule: (1) Date of Commencement of Download of Document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**: from **09.12.2025** onwards. **(2)** Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **11.12.2025** upto **5:00 p.m. (3)** Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting: **11.12.2025** at **12:30 p.m.** at the following venue: Office of Assistant Conservator of Forests, 2nd Floor, Palike Soudha, MC Layout, Govindarajanagara, Bengaluru 560 040. **(4)** Last Date for uploading of tenders in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **16.12.2025** upto **5:00 p.m. (5)** Date and Time of Online Technical opening of tender: **17.12.2025** upto **5:10 p.m. (6)** Place of Opening of Tender: **Online at KPPP portal. (7)** Address for Communication: **Office of Assistant Conservator of Forests, 2nd Floor, Palike Soudha, MC Layout, Govindarajanagara, Bengaluru 560 040. Email: bwccacfforest@gmail.com.**

Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, BWCC

ಓಡಿಶಾ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಸಂಚಾರಣ ನಿಗಮ ಲಿಃ
(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏକ ଉପକ୍ରମ)
ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Bids are invited from reputed firms/agecies for the following tenders:

E-Tender No.	Tender Description:	Estimated Cost
HRD-04/2025-26	Selection of security agency for providing watch & ward services to OPTCL for 01 year initially, which may be extended by another 01 year subject to satisfactory performance of the service provider from the date of commencement of the agreement.	Rs. 53,43,63,744/-

Last date & time of submission of online bid is 29.12.2025, 17:30 hrs. Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.optcl.co.in.**

CAD-2644 /optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha HIPR-49/2025-26 OIPR/04011/11/0237/2526

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer-Head Office, No. 14/3, 1st Floor, Aravindha Bhavana Building, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001.

No.: KIADB/LAQ/886/2025-26 Date: 26.11.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Under section 28(1) of KIAD Act 1966)

It is hereby informed to the general public and related Land Khatedars/Anubhavdars/interested persons that 11-34 ¾ A/G area of land in Kurugal, Malliyappanahalli and Gudigondanahalli Villages, Vemagal Hobli, Kolar Taluk, Kolar District, for Industrial Area Development Project, Preliminary Notification No.: CI 156 SPQ 2020 Dated 27.10.2025, published in Karnataka State Gazette Special Issue Part-3, Page Nos. 9867 to 9871 Gazette published dated 29.10.2025. Like wise as per Sec 28(2) of the Act Notice will be issued to nthe concerned Land Owners/ Anubhavadars. Even then Land Owners/Anubhavadars, who did not receive the Notice, if they have any objections to this Land Acquisition Process, it is informed that within 30 days objections should besubmitted along with proper documents in person or through authorized person to the Special Land Acquisition Officer, Head Office (KIADB), No. 14/3, C.F.C. Building, Maharshi Aravinda Bhavana, 1st Floor, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru – 560001 on **16.12.2025 at 11.00 AM** in writing. Failing which, it will be considered that there are no objections for acquisition of these lands and further action will be taken as per law.

Sl. No	Name of Khatedar	Survey No.	Acquisition Area: Ainu A-G	Kharabu A-G	Remaining A-G
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Village: Kurugal Hobli: Vemagal Taluk: Kolar District: Kolar				
1	P.M. Krishnamurthy S/o Late P.R. Muniyappa Shetty	256/5	2-39	-	2-39
		Total	**2-39**	**-**	**2-39**
	Village: Gudigondahalli Hobli: Vemagal Taluk: Kolar District: Kolar				
1	Indira C. D/o C. Chowdappa	14/4	2-19	-	2-19
2	M.N. Rajanna S/o M.D. Narayanaswamy	19/3	0-21	-	0-21
3	M.N. Venkateshamurthy S/o M.D. Narayanaswamy	19/4	0-21	-	0-21
4	M.N. Rajanna S/o M.D. Narayanaswamy	19/5	0-01	-	0-01
5	C. Chowdappa S/o Chikkamunishamappa	Part of 24/1	0-24	-	0-24
6	M.P. Venkatesha Gowda S/o Pillegowda	Part of 24/2	0-20	-	0-20
		Total	**4-26**	**-**	**4-26**
	Village: Malliyappanahalli Hobli: Vemagal Taluk: Kolar District: Kolar				
1	Vinay Gowda S/o Manjunatha, Veda D/o Late Manjunatha, Mother Nagaveni on behalf of Minor Children, Moni S/o Late Manjunatha, Mother Nagaveni on behalf of Minor Children, Gagan S/o Late Manjunatha, Mother Nagaveni on behalf of Minor Children, Beelu, Munivenkatappa S/o Narayanappa, Subramani, Muniyamma W/o Late Venkatamma, Devaraja S/o M. Seenappa	Part of 43	1-20	-	1-20
2	T. Rajanna S/o Late Thippanna – Bhu Pa	Part of 53/2	1-07	-	1-07
3	N. Rathnamma D/o Nareppa, Narayanappa S/o Late Muniyappa, Anjinappa S/o Late Muniyappa, Munianjinappa S/o Chinnaiyappa, Ramappa S/o Chinnaiyappa	62/1 B	1-16	-	1-16
4	Anjinamma W/o Doddamuniyappa	62/14	0-03.04	-	0-03.04
5	Munivenkatamma W/o Late Chikkamuniappa	62/15	0-03.08	-	0-03.08
		Total	**4-09.12**	**-**	**4-09.12**

Sd/- Special Land Acquisition Officer KIADB (Head Office)

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, Sri.Veera Lokesh Ayireddy & Smt.Jayabharathi Kulandaivadivel are the absolute owners of the property described in the Schedule hereunder. It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase/develop the Schedule Property from the above said owners. All persons having any claims against to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, Joint Development Agreement, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within 10 days from the date of publication hereof**, failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

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Dated this Tenth day of December 2025 at Bangalore

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS
ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS
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Phone: 080-65555914
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3	Supervisor	Project Operations	3-10 Years	HSC	30
4	Foreman	Project Operations	3-10 Years	HSC	25
5	Senior Engineer	Planning	6-8 Years	BE/B.Tech Civil	10
6	Assistant Engineer	Planning	3-5 Years	BE/B.Tech Civil	10
7	Senior Engineer	Quality Assurance	6-9 Years	BE/B.Tech Civil	10
8	Assistant Engineer	Quality Assurance	3-6 Years	BE/B.Tech Civil	10
9	Lab Technician	Quality Assurance	2-5 Years	HSC/ITI/Diploma	10

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Interested candidates are advised to appear with their latest CV, one passport-size photograph and ID proof.
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GENERAL

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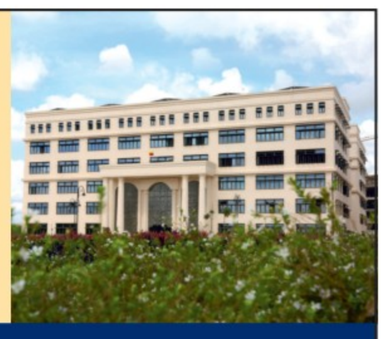

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https://www.manipal.edu/mu/campuses/mahe-bengaluru/academics/institution-list/mitblr.html

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Principal, BVRITHCEW Date: 10-12-2025

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Date : 10/12/2025 **Place : Ankleshwar** **President**

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Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112
Tamil Nadu – India. Phone: 044 – 27472046, 27472113, 27472423
Email: niepmd@gov.in. website: www.niepmd.nic.in
~ (Re-Accredited by NAAC B+2nd Cycle)~ ~ ISO 9001:2015~

Employment Notice No.05(R)/2025
(Online Application only)

NIEPMD(D) invites online applications from Indian Nationals, who fulfil the prescribed qualification, experience, age and other conditions for filling up the following sanctioned regular post for NIEPMD(D), Chennai as per the details given:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Group / Scale of pay	Mode of Recruitment
1.	Deputy Registrar (Admin)	01 (One)	Group-A **For Deputation including Short term contract** Rs.67,700/- to 2,08,700/- Level -11 (7th CPC) **For Contract** Rs.1,07,000/- per month with provision of annual increment 3%	Deputation including Short term contract failing which by Contract

For detailed advertisement, essential/desirable qualifications, age limit, application link **(https://niepmd.nic.in/notice-category/recruitments/)**, and the application fee details etc., please visit our website: **www.niepmd.nic.in.** The last date of receipt of online applications and necessary documents is **30 days** from the date of publication in Employment News.

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

SBI
State Bank of India
Central Recruitment & Promotion Department
Corporate Centre, Mumbai
email: crpd@sbi.co.in

Scan QR to Apply

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Advertisement No.: CRPD/SCO/2025-26/17	
Name of Post	**Vacancy**
VP Wealth (SRM)	506
AVP Wealth (RM)	206
Customer Relationship Executive	284

For eligibility criteria (age, qualification, experience, job profile etc.), vacancy details, requisite fees, other details and for online submission of application as well as online payment of application fees log on to Bank's website **https://sbi.bank.in/web/careers/current-openings**. Refer detailed advertisements to ensure eligibility and other details before applying and remitting fees. For any query, please write to us through link **"CONTACT US"** → **"Post Your Query"** which is available on Bank's website **(https://sbi.bank.in/web/careers/post-your-query)**

- **DATE FOR FILING ONLINE APPLICATION & PAYMENT OF FEES: FROM 02.12.2025 to 23.12.2025.**

Place: Mumbai
Date: 02.12.2025 **General Manager (RP & PM)**

ENGG./PRODN./TECH.

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Malpe, Karnataka
Wholly Owned subsidiary of Cochin Shipyard Limited
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India.

Ref. No. UCSL/IMS/HR/VN/F/11-ExNVY/CE/CA/2025/62 dated 09 December 2025

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Sl. No	Name of Posts	No. of Posts
01	Commissioning Engineer (Mechanical)	02 Posts
02	Commissioning Engineer (Electrical/ Electronics)	01 Post
03	Commissioning Assistant (Electrician / Shipwright / Mechanician)	10 Posts

For more details on age, qualification, remuneration, reservations, etc with regards to this advertisement visit www.cochinshipyard.in or www.udupicsl.com

Date of walk-in interview : 06 January 2026.
Time : 09.00 Hrs to 14.00 Hrs
Venue : Recreation Club, Cochin Shipyard Limited, Thevara Gate, Kochi - 682015

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Interested candidates should email their resume within 15 days of this advertisement at the following:
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www.galgotiasuniversity.edu.in
E-mail: recruitments.sob@galgotiasuniversity.edu.in
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Distt Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.
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Min. Qualification	• Master's degree in Education or related field • Demonstrated leadership experience in a CBSE school (Principal/Vice Principal/Academic Head) • Strong knowledge of CBSE regulations and contemporary educational practices • Excellent communication, organisational, and interpersonal skills
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Subjects	• Physics • Chemistry • Mathematics • English • Social Science • EVS • Kannada • Hindi • Music • Art & Craft • Physical Education (Female Only)
Min. Qualification	• Postgraduate degree in the relevant subject with B.Ed./M.Ed. • Sound understanding of CBSE curriculum standards & modern teaching practices • Strong communication, organisational, and interpersonal abilities

HOW TO APPLY — Candidates may send their resume, cover letter outlining their vision for the role, and relevant certificates to:
hr@cittumkur.org / careers@cittumkur.org

Last date to apply : 22 December 2025
For Queries: 88673 54168 / 9342123255 / 08131-22317

ENGG./PRODN./TECH.

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Post Box No. 1791, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore – 560017
A Maharatna CPSE

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Sl. No.	Position	No. of Posts	Educational Qualification
01	Manager (Lab)	1 (UR)	Full time B.E/ B.Tech in Metallurgical Engineering along with Master's Degree in Engineering/ Technology and full time / part-time Doctorate in Metallurgical Engineering / Metallurgy / Material Science

The detailed advertisement with the details of Age, Qualification, Experience, Mode of applying, Selection procedure etc. is available at HAL Website **www.hal-india.co.in.** The last date for receipt of application by post is **03.01.2026**. Corrigendum/ Addendum, if any will be hosted on HAL website only.

Dy. General Manager (HR),
Foundry & Forge Division, HAL, BC

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POST	QUALIFICATION	NO. OF POSTS	POST QUALIFICATION EXPERIENCE AS ON 01.12.2025
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Sr. Assistant Engineer (E-I)	Diploma in Mechanical Engg. or equivalent	03 (1 OBC-NCL , 1 SC, 1 ST)	15 Years

Last date for applying is 30.12.2025 For detailed advertisement please visit our website www.bel-india.in

'Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam'

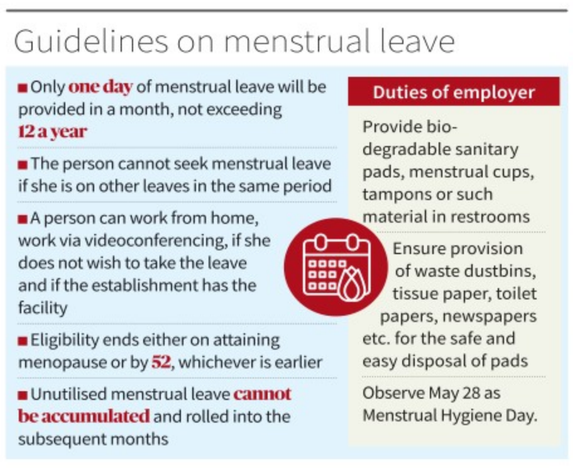
BG-BGE

Karnataka readies legislation to provide menstrual leave

Bill expands the scope of those eligible for leave, but also proposes setting up a Karnataka Women Well Being Authority

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

In the first-ever such legislation proposed in the country, the Karnataka government has readied the Karnataka Women Well Being Leave Bill, 2025, which provides menstrual leave not only for working women in the formal sector but also for female students in educational institutions, transgenders, ASHAs, anganwadi, and midday meal personnel, and those working in mines.


Guidelines on menstrual leave
Only one day of menstrual leave will be provided in a month, not exceeding 12 a year
The person cannot seek menstrual leave if she is on other leaves in the same period
A person can work from home, work via videoconferencing, if she does not wish to take the leave and if the establishment has the facility
Eligibility ends either on attaining menopause or by 52, whichever is earlier
Unutilised menstrual leave cannot be accumulated and rolled into the subsequent months
Duties of employer
Provide bio-degradable sanitary pads, menstrual cups, tampons or such material in restrooms
Ensure provision of waste dustbins, tissue paper, toilet papers, newspapers etc. for the safe and easy disposal of pads
Observe May 28 as Menstrual Hygiene Day.

Age criteria
An earlier Government Order had covered the private sector, and last week the government brought its workers under its ambit. Instead of 18 as a minimum age criteria prescribed earlier, the Bill does not propose any lower minimum age limit, but the upper age limit has been capped at 52 or till menopause.

While the working women will get one day leave per month, the menstrual leave for students will be upto two days in a month and consequently 2% relaxation in the attendance for menstrual issues in educational institutions.

WFH facility
If the employee does not chose to avail of the leave, she will be entitled for work from home if the facility is available. Not mandating a doctor's certificate, the leave can be availed through a request on e-mail.

The proposed Bill is likely to be cleared in the Cabinet on Thursday, following which it will be introduced in the legislature, sources said. This will be the most comprehensive legislation proposed so far in the country.

When asked if the Bill was in response to the ongoing case in the Karnataka High Court, sources said that the government was working on the Bill for some time now.

Among other things, the Bill proposes setting up Karnataka Women Well Being Authority, which will be headed by the chairperson of the Karnataka State Commission for Women to redress grievances arising out of complaints.

Labour officer in the district will be the enforcement officer.

Penalty clause
A penalty of upto ₹5,000 for each contravention of the provision has been proposed for those who deny menstrual leave, ill treat or discriminate against menstruating women.

HC recalls stay on one-day monthly menstrual leave for women employees

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka recalled its earlier interim order of staying the State government's November 20 notification mandating registered establishments to grant one-day leave per month for women employees, aged between 18 and 52 years, during their menstrual cycle.

Justice Jyoti M. had passed the interim order around 10.45 a.m. on Tuesday staying the notification after hearing the arguments on two separate petitions, filed by Bangalore Hotels' Association and Avirata AFL Connectivity Systems Ltd, Bengaluru.

However, at around 1.30 p.m., the court recalled the interim order of stay after the State Advocate-General K. Shashi Kiran Shetty requested the court to hear arguments on behalf of the State on Wednesday before considering the plea of the petitioners for staying the notification on menstrual

leave. Accepting the A-G's request, the court adjourned hearing till December 10 by recalling the stay order.

Petitioners' argument
The primary ground on which the petitioners had challenged the validity of the notification was that there exists no provision in the statutes concerned to grant leave during menstrual cycle, and hence the government had no power to introduce additional leave to various establishments, registered under various labour laws, through a notification.

It was also pointed out to the court that the government had not held consultations with the petitioners or similarly situated establishments prior to introducing additional leave through the "Menstrual Leave Policy 2025".

What the notification said
The menstrual leave was mandated to the establishments registered under the Factories Act, 1948, the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1961, the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, and the Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961.

The notification states that women employees should utilise the menstrual leave of a month in the respective month itself and the leave of the previous month shall not to be allowed to be extended (carry over) to the next month. Also, the notification states that women employees are not required to provide any medical certificate to avail themselves of this leave every month.

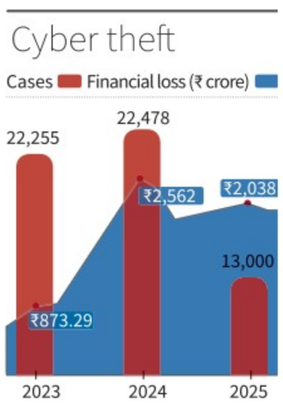
57,000 cybercrime cases registered in State in last three years: Parameshwara

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Karnataka has witnessed over 57,000 cybercrime cases in the last three years, accounting for financial fraud to the tune of ₹5,473 crore, according to Home Minister G. Parameshwara.

In numbers
Replying to BJP member Cement Manju during Question Hour in the Assembly, he said 22,255 cybercrime cases had been filed in 2023 in Karnataka amounting to financial fraud of ₹873.29 crore. In 2024, the number of registered cybercrime cases stood at 22,478, accounting for financial fraud of ₹2,562 crore. So far, in 2025, these cases have stood at 13,000 with a financial fraud of ₹2,038 crore.

So far, it had been possible to recover only ₹627 crore in these cases of cybercrime, he said, while pointing out that more



than 10,700 cases had been solved so far.

The statistics provided by the Minister shows that Bengaluru city tops the list of cities in terms of cybercrimes in 2025 by accounting for 9,326 cases. Among the districts, Bengaluru Urban district accounted for 384 cases, followed by Vijayapura (340), Tumakuru (243), Ramanagara district (192), Udupi district (171), Mysuru city (166) and Mysuru district (56).

Listing the efforts by the State government to curb cybercrimes, the Minister said Karnataka had created a cyber vertical led by a DGP like the CID and Prisons Department for the first time in the country. As many as 43 cyber police stations had been set up crack down against cybercrime, he said.

IN THE LEGISLATURE

Online betting
Dr. Parameshwara said that incidents of online betting had increased both within the country and abroad. He said the State government had tried to bring changes to the existing legislation to ban online betting. But the Online India Gaming Federation had got a stay from the courts against such changes. The State had now approached the Supreme Court and the case had been listed for December 19, he said. Though the Centre too had brought in a legislation to curb online betting, that legislation too had been stayed, he said.

Govt. to give ₹5 lakh each to 23 kambalas

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government has decided to support kambala (slush track buffalo race) by providing financial assistance of ₹5 lakh each to 23 kambala events a year in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

Announcing this in the Assembly while replying to Congress member Ashok Kumar Rai during Question Hour, Law Minister H.K. Patil said a sum of ₹5 lakh would be given to each of the kambala events.

Earlier, the Minister said financial grant had been earmarked for 10 kambala events and that the government was considering increasing it to 20 events. However, all the members from the coastal region, cutting across party affiliations, urged the government to increase it to 23 kambalas, as that would encourage tourism and traditional sport in coastal region.

The Minister finally agreed to their demand.

Members spar during debate on flood and drought relief

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The discussion on infrastructure development and devastation in the recent floods and drought in North Karnataka saw verbal exchange between the ruling Congress and Opposition BJP members, and an adjournment in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was forced to intervene to calm the tempers, urging both sides to maintain decorum, and follow the House rules and traditions of not interrupting those allowed to speak by the Chair.

The House plunged into chaos after Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda interrupted Leader of Opposition R. Ashok, who initiated the discussion.

Taunt and response
When Mr. Ashok taunted the government over delay in providing relief to the farmers affected by drought, Mr. Gowda took exception and pointed out that the State went to the Supreme Court for the first

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok speak during Winter Session in Belagavi on Tuesday.

time in the history of independent India to seek drought relief from the Centre. Soon, he was joined by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge, who defended the government and also attacked the BJP for "playing politics" on the issue.

BJP members rose to their feet and the House was drowned in the cacophony. Mr. Ashok, when asked to continue by the Chair, refused to do so, and asked the ruling party members to decide what should be spoken, forcing an adjournment.

Lessons in decorum
When the House resumed, Mr. Siddaramaiah urged members not to use unparliamentary language and also not interrupt. "It is not proper to interrupt when the Leader of Opposition or the Chief Minister is speaking. If the speakers do not yield, they should not be interrupted. I will tell the members and Ministers not to interrupt. Mr. Gowda was speaking facts." He also urged the Opposition to critcise the government based on facts, and not mislead the House.

In the Council too, members of the BJP and the Congress engaged in a heated debate over relief to farmers who suffered losses due to heavy rains.

DKS favours change in norms on stocking liquor

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday said there is a need to change the norm related to the maximum number of liquor bottles that one could store in their houses.

Janata Dal (Secular) member C.B. Sureshbabu accused the Excise Department of prescribing targets on liquor sales to officials and expressed concern that steep targets were responsible for even students consuming liquor.

BJP member S. Suresh Kumar sarcastically remarked that the government should provide permission to gig workers and online sales platforms to sell liquor, too.

Mr. Suresh Kumar said there are indeed instances of people using the online platforms to get drugs too. Taking exception to this, Home Minister G. Parameshwara urged the BJP MLA to pass on information in this regard to the government for conducting a probe, if he has any.

BJP holds protest, says Congress pointing to Union government to cover up its failures

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by party's State president B.Y. Vijayendra, Opposition leaders R. Ashok, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, C.T. Ravi and others led a protest march highlighting farmers' issues in Belagavi on Tuesday and subsequently courted arrest by trying to lay siege to the Suvarna Soudha.

Earlier, addressing the protesters, Mr. Vijayendra alleged that "to cover up its failure" the Congress leaders were blaming the Centre. "The State government has cheated the sugarcane farmers on the issue of FRP. While FRP for sugarcane and MSP for maize is being given in other States, the Karnataka government has failed to even open procurement centres. For the fear of losing the yield, the farmers are being forced to sell it to middlemen putting them in further distress," he alleged.

BJP workers take out a protest rally in support of farmers in front of the Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi on Tuesday. P.K. BADIGER

MLC N. Ravikumar said while 54 lakh tonnes of maize was being grown in Karnataka, the present government was procuring just 5 lakh tonnes.

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy claimed that there was nothing pending with the Centre as it had already released whatever was to be released to the State. "Stop blaming Centre and if you are unable to run the government, then step down," he said.

Mr. Ravi alleged that while sugarcane was being procured in the neighbouring Maharashtra at an FRP of ₹3,600, the State government had failed to even to ensure the FRP fixed by the Central government putting the sugarcane farmers in distress.

Mr. Ashok said the government had also failed to release crop loss compensation to the farmers affected by excess rains and floods. He claimed pro-farmer schemes and assistance extended by the previous BJP government had been stopped by the Congress government.

The BJP protest and another protest by farmers seeking withdrawal of the three farm laws and fulfilment of other demands resulted in the service road being blocked for over an hour. The farmers relented only after Agriculture Minister Cheluvarayaswamy spoke to them and assured to visit the protest site.

CM writes to Modi, reminding him about plight of toor farmers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing "alarm on behalf of the toor dal growers of Karnataka, whose economic survival is now being placed under avoidable and unjustifiable risk due to procedural delay at the Union government level".

Mr. Siddaramaiah, in his letter, pointed to Government of Karnataka's proposal submitted on November 6, 2025, seeking immediate approval for MSP-based procurement of toor dal through NAFED and NCCF, and said that no action had been taken so far in this connection.

He pointed out in the letter that during the current kharif season (2025-26), toor dal has been sown across approximately 16.80 lakh hectares in Karnataka, with an expected production of over 12.60 lakh tonnes, especially in northern districts.

At present, the model market prices are ranging between ₹5,830 and ₹6,700 per quintal, while the Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced for toor dal for 2025-26 stands at nearly ₹8,000 per quintal. The Chief Minister pointed out that while the peak arrivals are expected between December 2025, and January 2026, the Union government will open procurement centres only in February and March.

Delay hurts
"It is evident that farmers are staring at a serious income shock, unless timely and decisive intervention is undertaken by the Union government. When the market price falls below MSP, it is not merely a question of economics, it is a question of trust between the farmer and the State. Farmers have sown their crops trusting the MSP assurance given by the Government of India," Mr. Siddaramaiah said in the letter, adding that every day of delay is pushing Karnataka's farmers closer to distress sales, debt traps and irreversible financial damage.

"Any further postponement at this critical juncture will inevitably lead to farmer unrest, price collapse, and a serious breakdown of trust in MSP as a viable public policy instrument," he said in the letter.

7 Kerala districts record over 70% voter turnout

The first phase of local body elections was held peacefully, says State Election Commissioner; as per data, Ernakulam recorded the highest voter turnout, while Pathanamthitta had the lowest

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Civic duty: People queue to cast their votes at a polling booth in Perumathura coastal village during the first phase of local body elections in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

The seven southern Kerala districts recorded a polling percentage of 70.9 on Tuesday in first phase of the 2025 local body elections, as per the data on voter turnout released by the State Election Commission (SEC).

This accounts for nearly 93 lakh of the total 1.32 crore voters in the local bodies in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Idukki, Alappuzha and Ernakulam districts where elections were held on Tuesday.

The SEC said that the figures were provisional based on updates till 9 p.m. on Tuesday and that the final data would be published only on Wednesday.

As per the available data, Ernakulam recorded the highest voter turnout, while Pathanamthitta had the lowest. The updates on the district-wise polling percentages are as follows: Thiruvananthapuram 67.4, Kollam 70.36, Pathanamthitta 66.78, Alappuzha 73.76, Kottayam 70.94, Idukki 71.77, and Ernakulam 74.58.

To compare, these seven districts had logged a turnout of 73.85% in the 2020 elections, show SEC data. On Tuesday, 70.28% of the female voters, 71.6% of the male voters and 40.48% of the transgender voters exercised their right to vote.

As per the update, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation recorded a turnout of 58.24%, Kollam Corporation 63.32% and the Kochi Corporation, 62.52%.

The first phase of elections were held peacefully across the seven districts, State Election Commissioner A. Shajahan said. He also sought the support of all stakeholders for the smooth conduct of the second phase of elections in the seven northern districts on December 11.

On Tuesday, polling had opened at 7 a.m. across the seven districts after a mock poll held one hour prior to the actual exercise. Voting closed at 6 p.m., but all voters who were at the polling stations at the time were allowed to vote.

Repolling ordered

The SEC has ordered a repoll in Mannancherry in Alappuzha district after polling was disrupted at the polling station in the Government High School Mannancherry on account of a faulty electronic voting machine. The repoll will be held from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on December 11 to the Ambalakkadavu ward in Mannanchery grama panchayat, Mannancherry ward in the Aryad block panchayat and the Aryad block of the Alappuzha district panchayat, the SEC said. Across the State, elections were postponed in three wards following the deaths of candidates.

604 local bodies to see Phase II polls tomorrow

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Over 12,000 local body wards in seven districts in northern Kerala will see Phase II of the 2025 local body elections on Thursday. Arrangements are in place for the conduct of free and fair elections in Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Kannur, and Kasaragod districts, the SEC said. Elections will be held in 12,391 wards in 604 local bodies. Polling will begin at 7 a.m. and conclude at 6 p.m.. A mock poll to check the readiness of the electronic voting machines) will be held an hour before the actual polling.

We will continue to support survivor in sex assault case: CM

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

Pinarayi Vijayan said the police had proceeded solely based on evidence in the case.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said the State government had supported the survivor in the actor assault case "at every stage and would continue to do so".

Speaking during a Meet-the-Press programme organised by the Kannur Press Club on Tuesday, Mr. Vijayan said the prosecution had handled the case effectively and that the verdict would undergo legal scrutiny before further action.

The Chief Minister criticised UDF convener Adoor Prakash's remarks on the verdict, calling them "strange and contrary to public sentiment." He said the UDF's stance on the government's appeal in the case "reflected its political positioning."

On actor Dileep's allegation of conspiracy by high-level police officers, Mr. Vijayan said "it was only the actor's perception", adding that the police had proceeded solely based on evidence.

Dissent note

Dubbing artiste Bhagyalakshmi on Tuesday resigned from the Film Employees Federation of Kerala (FEFKA) in protest against the film body's move to reinstate actor Dileep after he was acquitted by the Ernakulam Principal Sessions Court on Monday in thecase.

Ms. Bhagyalakshmi alleged that the federation had failed to stand with the survivor. "Mr. Dileep had been acquitted by the lower court. He can be called not guilty only if the Supreme Court delivered such a verdict," she said.

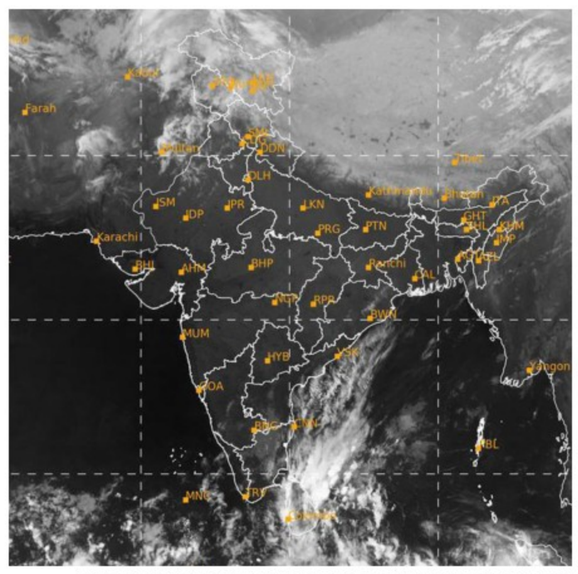
She said film bodies were "so quick" to initiate steps to reinstate Mr. Dileep since such discussions began immediately after the court acquitted him. "This clearly shows that these organisations will never stand with the survivors," she alleged.

Senior actor-director Lal said he hoped that the court will award the maximum punishment to the six persons found guilty in the case. "I welcome the verdict," he said, pointing out that he was not fully aware of the conspiracy angle of the case.

After the brutal assault, the survivor was dropped off at Mr. Lal's residence by Martin Antony, the second accused. Mr. Lal said he was the first person to inform the then State Police chief Loknath Behra about her ordeal.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Marathwada and north interior Karnataka. Fog likely at isolated pockets over Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	26.6	13.6	Kozhikode	—	34.5	24.0
Ahmedabad	—	30.6	14.6	Kurnool	—	32.7	16.9
Aizawl	—	25.4	10.3	Lucknow	—	25.8	9.8
Allahabad	—	27.3	9.9	Madurai	—	32.0	20.1
Bengaluru	—	27.6	16.1	Mangaluru	—	32.8	20.5
Bhopal	—	26.4	7.2	Mumbai	—	33.8	16.5
Bhubaneswar	—	28.7	13.7	Mysuru	—	29.0	15.4
Chandigarh	—	24.6	8.6	New Delhi	—	25.5	9.2
Chennai	—	30.7	23.4	Patna	—	24.8	13.7
Coimbatore	—	30.6	18.4	Port Blair	—	30.1	26.2
Dehradun	—	26.4	7.6	Puducherry	—	28.8	22.1
Gangtok	—	18.3	8.1	Pune	—	31.3	14.7
Goa	—	33.9	20.0	Raipur	—	29.8	12.3
Guwahati	—	26.3	13.2	Ranchi	—	24.6	10.6
Hubballi	—	29.0	14.0	Shillong	—	18.8	8.0
Hyderabad	—	29.9	13.0	Shimla	—	20.4	10.0
Imphal	—	23.8	13.1	Srinagar	—	12.4	-3.7
Jaipur	—	28.2	11.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.7	22.2
Kochi	—	31.2	23.8	Tiruchi	—	29.5	21.6
Kohima	—	18.8	7.7	Vijayawada	—	30.2	17.0
Kolkata	—	26.1	15.2	Visakhapatnam	—	28.7	19.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.57	..96	64	... 150	...161	
Bengaluru	.17	..25	43	... 126	...166	
Chennai	...4	6	44	... 155	...121	
Delhi	.15	..85	86	... 312	...289	
Hyderabad	...3	..28	91	... 106	...123	
Kolkata	...9	..74	35	... 318	...243	
Lucknow	...8	..34	29	... 177	...264	
Mumbai	...9	..69	..9	... 149	...146	
Pune	.25	108	77	... 218	...181	
Visakhapatnam	.41	101	22	... 209	...215	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Balasore, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 314 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BEL IV ADDL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT BANGALORE
O.S.No. 1874/2023
Between: 1. Mrs. Poonam Yadav w/o Manoj Kumar aged about 51 years, **2. Mr. Manoj Kumar** s/o Shyam Babu Rai, aged about 51 years, both are residing at: No.A-103, Green Square Apartments, Doddaballapur Road, Behind Ramanashree Resorts, Ananthapura Village, New Yelahanka Town, Banglaore-560064 **Plaintiff**
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
Madhurita Chakarvarti w/o Abhishek Chatterjee Aged about 33 years, 1/2, Raja Basanta Roy Road Kalighat S.O. Kalighat, Kolkata, West Bengal-700026 Also Residing at: Apartment No.E-725, Brigade Northridge, Kogilu Main Road, Kogilu Yelahanka, Bengaluru- 560064 Defendant
SCHEDULE
All the peace and parcel, of "Apartment No.E-725, Brigade Northridge, Kogilu Main Road, Kogilu, Yelahanka, Bengaluru- 560064 consisting of two bedroom, 2 bath room, 1 drawing Area, 1 dining area, 1 Kitchen and 1 balcony in Tower E, Seventh Floor measuring 1230 Sq Ft.
Whereas, the Petitioner has instituted the above Ejectment Suit Proceedings against you praying to permit the plaintiff to remove the belongings and recovery of rent arrears and damages of the schedule property. Therefore, you're hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court on 27.01.2026. At 11 a.m either in person or by a pleader to answer the claim, failing which the Petition will be disposed off exparte against you.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 27th day of November 2025.
By Order of the court
IV ADDL. SR CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC, BENGALURU
ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF:
Sri. KARTHIK.B.Y, Advocate,
No.113/114, HTR Chambers, S.C.Road,
Sheshadripura Bangalore. Mob: 9880274342

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ,
ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಬೆಟ್ಟ, ಹನೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08225-272128 Email : sec.mmtemple@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಶ್ರೀ ಮ.ಮ.ಕ್ಷೇ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ/3/ಪಿಆರ್/15/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30-11-2025

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1.	**ಲಾಡುಪ್ರಸಾದ ಹಾಕಿಕೊಡುವ ಕಾಟನ್ ಬ್ಯಾಗ್‌ಗಳು (ಇಂಚುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)** 1) 10 x12 ಕಾಟನ್ ಬ್ಯಾಗ್-1ಕ್ಕೆ (ಎಲ್ಲಾ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳು ಸೇರಿ) (ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಮಾದರಿಯಂತೆ) **ಅಂದಾಜು 5 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕಾಟನ್ ಬ್ಯಾಗ್‌ಗಳು** 2). 12 x 14 ಕಾಟನ್ ಬ್ಯಾಗ್-1ಕ್ಕೆ (ಎಲ್ಲಾ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳು ಸೇರಿ) (ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಮಾದರಿಯಂತೆ) **ಅಂದಾಜು 2 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕಾಟನ್ ಬ್ಯಾಗ್‌ಗಳು**	58-00	58000-00

ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 30-12-2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 9886306737 ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿವೆ.

1.	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು ಜಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01-12-2025	ರ ನಂತರ
2.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23-12-2025	ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
3.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30-12-2025	ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
4.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31-12-2025	ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ:ಚಾನಗರ:547:2025-26

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಬೆಟ್ಟ

University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore
NACC 'A' Accredited,
Estate Office, GKVK, Bengaluru-560 065.
No. EO/SPO/kppp/12/2025-26 Dated: 04-12-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Kpp Portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KG-2, from the reputed firms for the procurement of Equipment's.

The Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date and time for uploading the tender on 18.12.2025 upto 4:00 p.m. The Technical Bid will be opened on 20.12.2025 at 10:30 a.m. The Financial Bid will be opened on 23.12.2025 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Tender Committee Room of Estate Office. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours and also refer UAS website: www.usabangalore.edu.in. **Help Desk-91-8046010000, + 91-8068948777, support@eprochelpdesk.com.** The University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER
DIPR/CP/RO4332/AAPL/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919
No: KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT 3682/CALL-2 Dated: 29.11.2025

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two cover system) (Through e-procurement portal only)

Item wise tenders are invited through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the work of **"Servicing of one no. Coal Crushers (Ring Granulator) and modification of Vibrating Grizzly including spares of Unit-2". EMD: Rs.1,70,000/-.** Last date & time for submission of bids: 15.12.2025 upto17:30 hrs. Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer (CHP) Mechanical-1,** BTPS/KPCL, Kudathini - 583152, Bellary Dist., Karnataka. **Mobile: 94482 90756.**

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road,
Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invites tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre-qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.

Last date for submission of bid: 07.01.2026 upto 4.00 PM

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	Construction of Residential Apartment building at site no. GH-1/B5, Suryanagar Phase-3, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2025-26/BW/work_indent 669 & IFT No.117/2025-26 Date: 08.12.2025. **Amount put to tender:** Rs.25,89,09,590/-

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/4334/AKAR/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that, our client is proposing to acquire rights in the Schedule Property (morefully described under the Schedule), from its owner Mrs Navitha Suresha, Mr Ashwatha KN & Mr KN Narsegowda.

Any person having any subsisting claim, right, title or interest, in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner including by way of easement, beneficial interest or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit or award passed by any Court or Authority or arbitrator, lis-pendens, power of attorney, bequest, FSI, development rights, partnership, family arrangement or settlement or otherwise encumbrance howsoever ("Claim"), are hereby requested to respond with documentary proof to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such Claim exists and if it existed, the claimant has relinquished such Claim and/or waived their right to exercise such Claim.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of land measuring 4 acres 2 guntas comprised in survey No 121, situated in Kudregere Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, and bound on:

East by : Government Road;
West by : Land in Survey No 59, belonging to Mr Munivenkatappa's son, Venkatesh Narayanappa;
North by : Land in Survey No 120/2 and Survey No 120/8, and
South by : Land in Survey No 59 belonging to Mr Narasappa and sons and Mr Munegowda.

Dated this 10 December 2025

Sd/-
Sudheer Madamaiah
Advocate
Khaitan & Co,
Embassy Quest, 3rd Floor, 45/1,
Magrath Road Bengaluru-560025
T: +91 80 43397000

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tender through KPP Portal for the following:

Sl. No.	Enquiry No / Indent No	Name of the Tender	Bid Documents available from	Last date for submission of Bids	Opening of Bid Document
1.	BESCOM/2025-26/ IND0163/Call-2	Supply of Hi Visibility Reflective Jacket	10.12.2025	17.12.2025 17:15 Hrs	18.12.2025 17:30 Hrs
2.	BESCOM/2025-26/ IND0160/Call-2	Supply of FRP Telescopic Discharge Rod 16Ft (Comprising of 3 Sticks, closed Height of 7 Ft and extended Height of 16 Ft)			
3	BESCOM/2025-26/ IND0162 /Call-2	Supply of Hi Visibility Reflective Rain Wear	11.12.2025	18.12.2025 17:15 Hrs	19.12.2025 17:30 Hrs
4	BESCOM/2025-26/ IND0164/Call-2	Supply of Electrical Safety Helmet attached with Electronic induction Tester			
5	BESCOM/2025-26/ IND0161/Call-2	Supply of Handle/Rod & FRP Wall Extension Ladder	12.12.2025	19.12.2025 17:15 Hrs	20.12.2025 17:30 Hrs
6	BESCOM/2025-26/ IND0166/Call-2	Supply of Rubber Hand gloves SEAMLESS Confirming to ISS for Electrical purpose			
7	BESCOM/2025-26/ IND0165/Call-2	Supply of Insulated GOS Operating Handle/Rod			

The Tender can be obtained through KPP portal website:**http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPPP help desk contact numbers 91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or e-mail at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Ele.), Procurement, BESCOM

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912 | Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

KALINADI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT

No. KPCL/2025-26/DA/WORK_INDENT3386 dtd: 29.11.2025. Protection works of ODY River Retaining wall along with Toe protection at NPH Phase-II. Approx. Value of Works: **Rs. 74.68 Lakhs(Excluding GST Only).** EMD: **Rs. 1,49,500/-.** Work Completion Period: **6 months (Excluding Monsoon).** Last date for receipt of tender: **13.12.2025 up to 16.30 Hrs.** Further details can be had from **Executive Engineer (Civil),** Nagjhari Dam & Power House Division, KPCL, Ambikanagar-581363, Dandeli Taluk, Karwar District, Mob: **9141607234.**

BHADRA GENERATING STATION

No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3562/Call-2 dtd: 04.12.2025. Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 20HP Submersible De-watering Pump along with modification of existing pipelines at station de-watering sump of BGS. EMD: **Rs. 5,089/-.** Last date & time for submission of tender: **18.12.2025 up to 16.30 Hrs.** Further information can be had from **Executive Engineer (O&M)Bhadra,** KPCL, B.R. Projects-577115, Bhadravathi Tq., Shivamogga Dist.

SHARAVATHY HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT

(1) No. KPCL/2025-26/IND2225, Dt: 01.12.2025. Supply of various types of Electric Contact Cleaners, Sealants and Adhesive required for SVPH. EMD: **Rs. 16,046/-. (2)** No. KPCL/2025-26/IND2238, Dt: 04.12.2025. Supply of various types of Contactors, Switches and Fuses required for SVPH. EMD: **Rs. 24,363/-.** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **16.12.2025 at 16.30 Hrs for Sl.No. (1) & 22.12.2025 up to 16.30 Hrs for Sl.No. (2)** Further information can be had from **Executive Engineer (MSP) J,** KPCL, Jogfalls-577435, Dist.: Shivamogga, M: 9449598847, e-mail: **eemspj@gmail.com.**

SHIVA HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT

No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3765, dtd: 05.12.2025, Design, manufacturing, supply, testing & commissioning of 7.0M height Aluminium scaffolding Ladder suitable for 45T Capacity Motorised EOT Crane located in Generator Floor at Shiva HES. EMD: **Rs. 5,161/-.** Completion Period: **60 Days from the date of handing over of site.** Last date for submission of tenders: **22.12.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs.** Further information can be had from **Executive Engineer(EM&O) Shiva,** KPCL, Shivasamudram Malavalli Taluk, Mandya District, Mob: 9141619315.

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer(Ele), BECC
Old Madras Road, K R Puram, Bengaluru - 560 036
No:EE/ELE/BECC/TEND/01/2025-26 Date: 08-12-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer(Electrical), Bengaluru East City Corporation on behalf of the Commissioner, Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC), invites Proposals (Technical and Financial) for appointing Agency for availing Graduate Engineer and Diploma Engineer.

Sl No.	Name of the Work
1.	Providing Assistant Engineer (Ele) and Junior Engineer (Ele) for BECC Electrical Division on Outsource Basis **Amount put to Tender (Excluding GST): ₹ 11,55,000.00, EMD Amount : ₹ 29,000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Proposals must be submitted online through KPPP on or before **16-12-2025** at **4:00** pm. (2) Availability of RFP Document from **09-12-2025** onwards. (3) Last Date for uploading the filled proposals is **16-12-2025** before **4:00** pm (4) Date for Opening of Technical Proposals is **17-12-2025** at **4:30** pm. (5) Date of Opening of Financial Proposals after Approval of Technical Proposals through Kppp.

Sd/- Executive Engineer(Ele)
Bengaluru East City Corporation

Note of harmony

India must uphold social cohesion with a rejuvenated national purpose

Vande Mataram, the salutation of India imagined as mother, inspired generations of nation-builders who brought together diverse sections of society to fight for freedom from British colonialism. Written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and published with his novel *Anandamath* in the early 1880s, this year marks the 150th anniversary of the song. Leaders of the Indian National Congress (INC), which was leading the national movement, decided in 1937 to use the first two stanzas at its gatherings, and the Constitution of the modern Republic of India accorded it the status of the national song. It is only fitting that the country remembers the story of the song, its spirit, and its purpose in nation-building. Unfortunately, the parliamentary discussion to commemorate the anniversary of the song turned into a partisan diatribe in which old wounds were reopened and dormant grievances reframed. The BJP, led by the Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha and Home Minister Amit Shah in the Rajya Sabha, sought to drive home the point that the INC's decision to use only the first two stanzas sowed the seeds of the Partition, as the Muslim League gathered support for a separate state of Pakistan. The Opposition, led by Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in the Lok Sabha and INC party president Mallikarjun Kharge in the Rajya Sabha, explained the historical circumstances of the role of the song and questioned the need for any debate at all on *Vande Mataram*. Ms. Vadra said Parliament should be focusing on issues of the present that concern everyday lives rather than discussing the past.

The past is important for the present of a national community, but it is important to draw the right lessons from history to avoid repeating mistakes. The national movement built unity among various religious and linguistic communities and sects by expanding the political space that they all could share. In fact, the story of *Vande Mataram* holds the path of accommodation and mutual respect that unite faiths and communities. Leaders of the national movement thought it was wise to find common ground rather than impose any faith. Millions of Muslims joined the chant of *Vande Mataram* across the country, as they marched alongside Hindus. While the unification project was successful to a great extent, Partition marked the fragile nature of that unity and flagged a concern for the future, that the promotion of any identity other than a secular, constitutional Indian commonness can be dangerous at any time. Inverting that history of harmony into a cause of fissure serves no purpose. India must uphold unity and harmony with a rejuvenated national purpose. That indeed is the greatest salutation to Mother India.

Wanton negligence

Regulatory failure was a contributory factor in the Goa blaze

A technical report by the Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services in Panaji has laid bare the reasons for the devastating blaze at the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub in Arpora, north Goa that claimed 25 lives. The nightclub had been operating without a valid fire department No-Objection Certificate (NOC). The local panchayat had issued a demolition notice for the unlicensed structure but this was not enforced. The building itself lacked essential safety infrastructure, and its wooden panels and decor and poorly ventilated basement led to the fire spreading quickly and the victims being claimed by toxic smoke and oxygen deprivation. The unfortunate pattern of the deadly blaze in Goa highlights the fact that such tragedies are not exceptional in India. There is one theme in tragedies such as the firecracker factory explosions in Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu, fires in hazardous old buildings in Kolkata, the flames consuming a sleeper bus in Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, and hospital fires across the country – the inadequacy of regulatory enforcement. Fire safety remains a low priority for regulators and administrators despite recurring catastrophes pointing to the same faults. The issue is not one of a deficit of laws but their lax implementation or even deliberate circumvention without fear of consequences. Building codes, fire safety norms and licensing requirements exist on paper, with corruption, political influence, bureaucratic inertia and, sometimes, even incompetence, creating an ecosystem where violations are routine and enforcement is the exception. With such an enabling environment, establishments such as the one in Arpora prioritise profits over safety. In the case of Goa, a major tourist hub, there is the added problem of proliferation of night clubs, many of them illegal. The operation of these clubs without licenses cannot be possible without political patronage. In Arpora's case, a magisterial inquiry has been ordered by the Chief Minister.

The recurrence of fire accidents must catalyse systemic change in India. Directly related to fire safety, some reforms are key. First, fire safety audits for establishments must be conducted periodically and the findings must be published on an e-governance portal that tracks compliance and fixes accountability. Second, community initiatives about fire safety and hazards should be mandated, and led by local governance institutions. These institutions can also be empowered to incentivise building owners to fit their establishments with fire exits and fire-resistant materials. Third, staff at high-risk establishments must receive safety and crowd management training. In sum, a fundamental shift in governance culture that prioritises citizen safety and holds the regulatory apparatus accountable is a must.

Care as disability justice, dignity in mental health

A 60-year-old recalls eating leftovers as a child, in the absence of his birth family, and, even today, is passively engaged with life. A survivor of childhood abuse says that she now views her problems as *'thoosi* (dust'), but only after being homeless and battling insurmountable trauma. Then there is a recollection by someone of stark abuse while under psychiatric care, who was chained and forced to drink water from a washroom because they were deemed 'unmanageable'.

These stories embody suffering in ways that numerical data fail to capture. These are stories that spotlight how different people are impacted and respond differently to distress and care, based on their contexts and beliefs. A lack of commitment to unpack these narratives risks shrinking the immersive exploration that is warranted. It may touch the surface of healing and venture a little beyond but will ultimately relegate the discourse that spotlights barriers, attitudes, social distances, and inadequate care systems to the margins.

Yet, dominant approaches to psychosocial disability continue to view these experiences through a deficits lens, as they are focused on 'integration' into communities that hold stereotypical understandings of productive living, a reductionist imagination of 'the normal', and a social order that goes unquestioned. The gaps in mental health-care access continue to range from 70%-90% globally. While third generation medications promise fewer side-effects and evidence-based therapies proliferate, the fundamental questions remain.

Vandana Gopikumar

is with The Banyan and Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health and is a mental health and social care practitioner and care systems researcher

Lakshmi Narasimhan

is with The Banyan and Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health, and is a mental health and social care practitioner and care systems researcher

The gaps

We argue that mental health care must be radically reimagined as the primary pursuit of dignity and disability justice that centres equity, inclusion, and diversity, highlighting complexities with all their nuances; as the practice of staying with people and persisting alongside them through suffering, whether that suffering is relational, material, or structural in nature. Care in this lens is a process of individual-level meaning-making, responding to adverse life events, relational disruptions and existential queries, while fulfilling needs for safety, relationships, everyday wins, and problem-solving. It is also a tussle between one's context and one's chosen path, complicating the narrative and the care plan.

To untangle the knots between mental health and the social context we must start with asking what kind of world creates such suffering, and how can one standardise essential protocols while achieving personalisation at scale.

Sustained material and relational deprivation, both as a cause and an outcome of mental ill health, often go unaddressed, resulting in a range of losses. An example is found in the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data on suicides, which while reducing causes to monotonic categories as reported by police, shows that a third of suicides in India are due to family problems and another tenth due to relational ruptures. Feelings of shame, rejection, alienation and abandonment that underlie distress are rarely spoken about, limiting both the language and expression of psychic pain. Solutions often attempt to fix patterns (labelled 'maladaptive'), placing the onus for broken relationships, social withdrawal and loss of vitality squarely on the person.

Multiple explanations for distress may persist concurrently, ranging from biological (neurotransmitter alterations, inflammatory markers), psychological (learned patterns, cognitive frameworks), social (isolation, economic precarity, discrimination), cultural (loss of traditional meaning systems), political (oppressive structures, dismantled safety nets), and historical (intergenerational trauma, colonial legacies). These explanations do not exist in isolation. They are overlapping and intersect with caste, class, gender and queer identities in ways that shape both the experience of suffering and access to care. Rather than viewing these as competing frameworks, comprehensive care requires attention to diverse explanations and approaches simultaneously.

On care practice

People experiencing emotional and social crises or intense alienation require the space to grapple with these existential uncertainties. In contrast, dominant notions that locate these within biological or social determinants frameworks obscure these meaning-making dimensions of mental well-being. As much as living in extreme housing precarity may limit opportunities to pursue what is personally meaningful, having a stable house or income alone cannot diminish feelings of disconnection from self and the world.

While privileging tangible interventions such as medication, housing or cash transfers and grit and resilience building (which is not exclusively individual dependent) must assume greater importance, equally, care planning must highlight the need for relational work that engages with questions around vulnerabilities and invulnerabilities, purpose and existential incoherence, located in social-ecological contexts. In these ideas lie the foundations of disability justice, that embodies the spirit of liberation and wholeness, and not mere integration into an unequal world.

What if we thought critically, practised with solidarity, and pursued more longitudinal work that is real-world sensitive? Care would then be re-centred as the practice of relational justice and examine concerns that sustain distress and approaches that suffuse hope in complex scenarios. This could range from medications and economic security, to finding hope in spiritual practice, one's goals and community connection. The focus shifts from treatment to 'what does this person need to live the life they want?', recognising that there are variegated and yet valid ways of understanding and responding to distress.

A secondary yet important gain might address the one issue that affects all mental health work – engagement with a service and continuity of care. Many people who access a service are disillusioned and lose faith and trust for innumerable reasons. This disengagement could often result in a downward spiral into states of despair, loneliness and homelessness. Building trust involves honest collaborations, dialogic practice and acceptance of non-linear outcomes.

Justice beyond fair distribution of resources or services, as espoused by Sandel, becomes central; as a process of recognising what we owe to one another and the moral threads holding our relationships and society. In mental health care, this means asking whether our systems centre dignity and account for the injustices that precipitated suffering, and, importantly, whether care can even be conceived without addressing the contexts that created harm in the first place.

Transforming care, education and research

Mental health education may need to prepare people to sit with discomfort and uncertainty, navigate the complexity of a person's social world, celebrate small wins, and remain open to diverse approaches. Research priorities require reorientation toward capturing the granular aspects of care rather than only large-scale, generalisable findings. These actions require examining micro-level processes through implementation science and transdisciplinary methods that link practice and theory, enabling continuous learning about what works, for whom, and how.

Most critically, those currently designated as non-specialists and those who bring lived experience need to be recognised and compensated as practitioners who bring community wisdom and contextual understanding that formal training cannot replicate, and receiving preparation and resources that enable them to engage with the same systemic support afforded to those with professional credentials.

> Mental health care must be radically reimagined as the primary pursuit of dignity and disability justice that gives importance to equity, inclusion and diversity

Charting an agenda on the right to health

Timed between Human Rights Day (December 10) and Universal Health Coverage Day (December 12), a significant national gathering on public health is being convened in New Delhi. The National Convention on Health Rights (December 11-12, 2025), will offer a unique platform for around 400 health professionals, community leaders and health activists to address India's major health challenges, while charting an agenda on the right to health. Organised by Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (People's Health Movement - India) which comprises diverse networks and civil society organisations from over 20 States, the convention will draw lessons from the COVID-19 crisis, while strengthening right to health initiatives and presenting alternatives to the commercialisation of health care.

Challenging privatisation

A major issue is the push for privatisation of public health services. Expansion of public-private partnerships is leading to medical colleges and health facilities being handed over to private players across India. This threatens to dismantle already weakened public services, while making health care unaffordable for crores of Indians who rely on public health-care provisioning. Leaders from movements against privatisation in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Mumbai, Madhya Pradesh and tribal districts of Gujarat will share insights and strategies, while critiquing the impacts of privatisation on health systems.

Commercial private health care in India has rapidly expanded, fuelled by domestic and foreign investments and pro-corporate policies. But this boom has not been matched by necessary regulation. Much after the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act was enacted in 2010, its implementation remains nominal. The consequences for patients include frequent overcharging and unnecessary medical procedures such as caesarean sections, opaque pricing and violations of patient rights. The convention will advocate for effective implementation of regulatory frameworks including rate standardisation, transparent pricing, mandatory observance of the Charter of Patient's Rights, and accessible grievance redress systems.

Dr. Abhay Shukla

is a public health physician and national co-convenor of the Jan Swasthya Abhiyan

India has among the lowest financial allocations for public health globally, with just 2% of the Union Budget allocated for health services, and annual per capita public spending at only $25. Out-of-pocket expenses remain high, despite disproportionate attention to government-supported health insurance schemes. At the convention, participants will examine the gap between claims and ground realities of these schemes and explore alternative financing frameworks centred on enhanced government spending, reduced out-of-pocket costs, and equitable access.

Justice for health workers

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the indispensable roles of frontline doctors, nurses, paramedics and support staff. Yet, many still face low wages, insecure employment, and inadequate social security and working conditions. During this convention, health worker associations will highlight the need for justice to health workers and resilient health systems.

Medicines constitute up to half of a household's medical spending, yet more than 80% of medicines in India remain outside price control. Irrational drug combinations, unethical marketing and high retail markups persist. The convention's session on access to medicines will examine regulatory gaps, pricing barriers, proposed removal of GST on medicines, and expanding public sector production of essential medicines.

The convention is to advocate for public health systems that are capable of delivering universal, quality services. With over 80 crore people in India dependent on public provisioning, strong public health services remain essential. Participants will highlight community-led models and successful state-level initiatives for revitalising public systems, with decentralised planning and community engagement. The vision is to affirm health care as a fundamental right anchored in robust, responsive public systems.

Eliminating discrimination

Entrenched social hierarchies continue to influence access to health care. A special session on gender and social justice will foreground the experiences of Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims, LGBTQ+ persons, and persons with disabilities and others towards embedding inclusion and non-discrimination in health systems. The convention also links health to broader determinants, with a session covering food security, environmental pollution and climate change, which would explore intersectoral strategies for health.

The convention has been timed during the winter session of Parliament, and dialogue will be held between delegates and Members of Parliament to highlight pressing health policy issues.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA). During this time, the JSA has worked across over 20 States with women's organisations, science groups, rural movements, patient groups and civil society networks to advance diverse health rights and pro-people policies. The convention will celebrate this legacy, renewing long-standing alliances, and strategising for the future. The National Convention on Health Rights is a call to action for everyone in India who believes that health must be a basic human right. Lessons from past campaigns will meet the energies of the present, shaping a popular narrative and demands for policies to ensure the right to health for all in the decade ahead. The overarching message remains clear: health care for people, not for profits.

> The National Convention on Health Rights will offer a platform to address India's major health challenges

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Debate in Parliament

No one has the least doubt about the pre-eminence of *Vande Mataram* as the national song. But creating unwanted controversy in its 150th year is out of line (Front page, December 9). We are missing the music by tuning to unwanted noise.

It is disconcerting that the government of the day is focusing on optics while ignoring fundamental issues that are crying for attention. The ruling dispensation seems to have the sole intent of amassing dividends in elections and is doing a disservice to the pride of place that the national song has in the country's psyche.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

The parliamentary debate so far reflects a selective reading of history, as records show that our leaders of the past consciously balanced national unity with cultural sensitivity. Recasting those decisions as "appeasement" ignores the realities of the time and risks polarising society today. Historical symbols should unite, not divide.

Respecting history requires nuance and honesty, not selective narratives that are shaped by contemporary political agendas.

Christene Grace Thomson,
Bengaluru

Yes, *Vande Mataram* is 150 years old and it is fine that we are celebrating its 150th anniversary on a grand scale. There ends the matter.

The Bharatiya Janata Party/National Democratic Alliance should not forget the fact that it has crossed over a decade in power. As rightly pointed out by the Opposition, there are a number of bread and butter issues that should be discussed in Parliament.

One concurs with the Opposition that the NDA/BJP is indulging in diversionary politics.

Religion alone cannot solve or resolve problems faced by the common people who outnumber the rich in India.

Govardhana Myneedu,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

The debate served neither national interest nor could it evoke a feeling of patriotism. Such unproductive and divisive talk is only a distraction. Let us not harp on issues which do not have any bearing on present-day India.

V. Subramanian,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name.

A deep cleaning of India's electoral rolls

Naira Jejeebhoy

Advocate whose area of practice includes election law and has represented the Election Commission of India in proceedings

Kumar Utsav

Advocate whose area of practice includes election law and has represented the Election Commission of India in proceedings

On April 12, 1950, while introducing the Representation of the People Bill in Parliament, the Minister of Law, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, emphasised that the preparation of an electoral roll is "a condition precedent for election". The statutory framework in India, therefore, provides for periodic and special revisions to ensure accuracy of the electoral roll.

Nevertheless, there have been concerns about the decision of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to revise the electoral rolls in some States by carrying out a Special Intensive Revision (SIR). The question that arises is whether the ECI's endeavour is ultimately directed at reinforcing or undermining public trust in the democratic process.

Restoring the foundation

There are two modes of updating rolls: intensive revisions, which rebuild the list from scratch, and summary revisions, which make incremental corrections. The last major intensive revision took place between 2002 to 2003. In recent decades, the ECI has relied on special summary revisions, under which claims and objections are invited on a draft roll. In the meantime, rapid migration, expanding urban centres, and high residential mobility have left electoral rolls riddled with duplicates, outdated entries and inaccuracies. Therefore, SIR 2025 was the need of the hour.

The implementation of SIR in Bihar in June 2025 resulted in the filing of several petitions before the Supreme Court labelling the revision exercise unconstitutional and illegal. The challenge proceeds on the basis that insistence on fresh enumeration and documents from existing registered electors is contrary to the constitutional right of universal adult franchise and will result in mass deletion of voters from the rolls. Notably, however, the authority to undertake such an exercise flows directly from the constitutional scheme itself, which vests the superintendence, direction, and control over the preparation of electoral rolls in the ECI. At the heart of this exercise lies the ECI's endeavour to ensure that only eligible citizens vote, as envisaged under Article 326 of the Constitution. The revision and verification of electoral rolls is a routine and necessary process. Such corrections do not, by themselves, imply disenfranchisement or targeting. Countries such as Germany and Canada rely on civil registries or information sharing between different government agencies to update voter rolls; India does not have such a mechanism. The ECI must therefore independently verify eligibility.

The criticism levelled at SIR 2025 ignores the inherent difficulties in screening citizenship, which is the fundamental basis for eligibility to vote. These difficulties in ascertaining eligibility were, however, anticipated by the Indian legislature, which conferred power on the ECI to carry out a special revision in such manner as it may think fit. SIR 2025 is being carried out pursuant to the constitutional mandate and to ensure that no eligible citizen is excluded from the roll, while simultaneously excluding ineligible persons.

The detailed guidelines for SIR 2025 issued by the ECI contain administrative innovations, technological improvements, and efforts at transparency and participation. Under the present framework of SIR, the ECI has undertaken door-to-door physical verification of each elector. The onus of proving citizenship continues to lie on the applicant. However, the list of acceptable documentary proof is expanded to 11 items, from merely four in 2003, resulting in a more liberal and elector-friendly framework. At the suggestion of the Supreme Court, the ECI also agreed to accept Aadhaar cards as proof of identity. Further, booth-level officers actively assisted electors in tracing their eligibility and obtaining prescribed eligibility documents.

The SIR process marks a notable shift towards technological accessibility. For the first time, all supporting documents are digitised. Further, enumeration forms are being made available through online platforms. After the publication of the draft roll, any person who has any claim or objections has the option to file the same using the online platform.

The ECI did not restrict capacity-building to its own machinery but also trained booth-level agents of recognised political parties. The SIR guidelines also contain provisions for engagement with parties and sharing of electoral rolls.

What the numbers show

Over 7.5 crore entries were subjected to verification during SIR in Bihar. The total number of electors removed from the draft list was 65 lakh. In addition to the 1,60,813 BLAs of political parties, the Supreme Court also deputed volunteers from the State Legal Services Authority to assist in the submission of claims/objections/corrections online. Nevertheless, only 2,53,524 claims and objections were received in total after publication of the draft roll. Of these, only 36,500 were claims for inclusion (0.56% when compared to the total number of deletions during the revision). Not a single appeal was filed against any deletion. These figures indicate that the SIR exercise was, more or less, grounded in careful and accountable scrutiny.

By embracing SIR, the ECI has demonstrated that its constitutional duties will not be subordinated to convenience or political pressures. Instead, they are being pursued with clarity, courage, and accountability. A democracy strengthens itself not by avoiding difficult tasks, but by undertaking them when it matters most. SIR 2025 is one such effort.

The revision and verification of electoral rolls is a routine and necessary process. Such corrections do not, by themselves, imply disenfranchisement or targeting

Grappling with the politics of division

There is renewed focus on the threat to religious harmony in Mandya

STATE OF PLAY

Laiqh A. Khan
laiqh.khan@thehindu.co.in

Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara's announcement that the Special Action Force (SAF) would be deployed in Mandya district has brought renewed attention to threats to religious harmony. The SAF is already deployed in the communally volatile coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, besides Shivamogga.

Formed by restructuring the Anti Naxal Force, the 280-member SAF is tasked with maintaining communal peace by cracking down on those fomenting religious hatred; gathering intelligence on communally provocative speeches; and monitoring social media for content that has potential to vitiate the atmosphere. Headed by an officer of the rank of Deputy Inspector General of Police, the SAF does not have the authority to investigate cases. It only identifies potential offences and alerts the jurisdictional police to take appropriate action. The Home Minister said he was satisfied with the SAF's performance, noting that since its launch in June 2025, the coastal districts had not seen any communal flare-ups.

His decision to deploy the SAF in Mandya comes on the back of a spate of recent communal incidents in the district. Dominated by the largely agrarian and land-owning Vokkaligas, Mandya has historically remained insulated from communal politics. In the 1970s and 1980s, the youth of Mandya gravitated towards progressive movements such as the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and the Dalit Sangharsha Samithi, and embraced poet laureate Kuvempu's philosophy of a 'Vishwa Manava' (universal human being).

But in recent years, communal tensions have repeatedly surfaced. The annual Hanuma Jayanti procession in Srirangapatna, the erstwhile seat of power during Tipu Sultan's reign, often sparks communal tension when the Hindu Jagran Vedike march passes by the 18th century Jamia Masjid and its activists make a vain bid to enter the fortified mosque. In January 2024, there was a row in Keregodu over replacing a saffron flag with the Indian tricolour on a flagpole. In September that year in Nagamangala, there was stone throwing during the Ganesha immersion procession, which escalated into clashes; the same happened in Maddur this September. These episodes, in addition to the heckling of a hijab-clad girl by a group of boys waving saffron shawls in a college in 2022, signal a worrying communal drift.

Political analysts have observed that the rise in instances of religious intolerance in Mandya has coincided with the BJP's electoral alliance with the JD(S) – a party traditionally backed by Vokkaligas and a key competitor to the ruling Congress in the region.

The Congress secured six out of seven Assembly seats in Mandya district in the 2023 polls, including the Melukote seat, where it supported Darshan Puttannaiah of the Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha party. However, it lost the Mandya Lok Sabha seat to JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy in the 2024 elections. It now blames JD(S) cadres' support for BJP's Hindutva politics for deepening religious polarisation.

For decades, the Congress and the JD(S) were directly in contest in the Old Mysore region, while the BJP struggled to gain a foothold. But the alliance between the H.D. Deve Gowda-led party with the BJP appears to have significantly altered the dynamics on the ground. The JD(S) cadre, who had previously competed with the Congress for Muslim votes to maintain a fragile communal balance, now find themselves aligned with the BJP and its affiliates. The shift was evident during the padayatra taken out to protest against the Keregodu flag controversy when even Mr. Kumaraswamy sported a saffron shawl. It was also seen during demonstrations against the stone pelting on Ganesha idols in Maddur.

The public response to the call for protest against the recent stone pelting incident in Maddur was striking. Even though the local police had acted swiftly by arresting more than 20 people belonging to the Muslim community, the demonstrations remained massive. JD(S) leaders flanked BJP firebrands at demonstrations in Maddur.

While the Congress grapples with the challenges of communalisation and the BJP-JD(S) combine, it hopes that the SAF will help restore stability. While the BJP, which gained votes between 2018 and 2023, is strengthened by its JD(S) alliance in the Vokkaliga heartland, the long-term future of the JD(S) remains uncertain.

Could IndiGo have hired more pilots to prevent the crisis?

Even adding 900 more pilots would have cost IndiGo just a fraction of the airline's annual profits

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Sambavi Parthasarathy
Nitika Francis
Devyanshi Bihani

Starting this month, IndiGo's operations unravelled as thousands of flights were cancelled. The primary trigger was the airline's failure to prepare for the new pilot rest and duty norms (Phase II), which came into full effect on November 1, 2025. These stricter mandates – specifically raising the weekly rest period of pilots from 36 to 48 hours and capping night landings – effectively shrank the available pool of pilot hours. The company informed officials that "misjudgement and planning gaps" led to the fiasco.

IndiGo is managing the current crisis by contracting its daily operations from 2,300 to approximately 1,800-1,900 flights. This creates a distinct 'lose-lose' scenario: the airline limits its output, and passengers face reduced connectivity. The impact is magnified by IndiGo's sheer dominance; its market share – measured in Revenue Passenger Kilometers – has climbed from under 40% in 2015-16 to over 60% in 2024-25 **(Chart 1).** Its nearest competitor, Air India, trails significantly at roughly 14%. With rivals grappling with their own aircraft shortages and scale limitations, the broader industry is ill-equipped to bridge the supply gap left by the market leader.

Could IndiGo have averted this fiasco by aligning its hiring strategy with the impending regulatory shifts? According to a recent report by *Mint*, the airline intends to onboard over 900 pilots by next December, with an initial intake of about 160 by February. Could this have been done before?

To understand the crisis, consider IndiGo's massive operational expansion. **Chart 2** plots IndiGo's share in total industry pilots versus total flying hours. In 2019-20, IndiGo had 44.6% of all pilots and contributed to 42.1% of total flight hours. By 2023-24, its pilot share dipped to 43.6% while flight hours surged to 50.9%. While this does not strictly prove that pilots are 'overworked', it hints at a divergence of operations scaling up significantly, but the pilot workforce not keeping pace.

Capt. A. Ranganathan, a former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser, confirms this. "IndiGo knew very well that they should have hired more pilots by November 1 this year. Despite not doing that, they applied for approval for the winter schedule this year. They actually increased the number of flights, which was approved by the DGCA."

Would hiring more pilots erode the bottom line of IndiGo, the only consistently profitable Indian carrier? To answer this, we analysed pilot expenditures. In 2023-24, IndiGo spent ₹31,217 million on 5,038 pilots, averaging ₹6.2 million per pilot annually **(Chart 3A)**. This figure is slightly lower than Air India's, yet higher than SpiceJet's **(Chart 3B)**. With plans to onboard 900 new pilots by next year, a back-of-the-envelope calculation projects an additional annual cost of roughly ₹5,500 million.

This additional ₹5,500 million outlay constitutes merely 6-8% of IndiGo's Profit After Tax, which stood at ₹81.6 billion in 2023-24 and ₹72.5 billion in 2024-25 **(Chart 4).** Even if we assume these hires are strictly for compliance rather than expansion, the trade-off is stark: the airline had to forego less than 8% of its surplus to insulate itself from this fiasco. It remains to be seen if the actual losses from the current crisis will outweigh this expense.

According to Capt. Ranganathan, IndiGo will in fact struggle to complete these additional hires. He noted that the airline delayed promoting many Senior First Officers to Captains, prompting an exodus of pilots. He also highlighted that allowances have been cut.

Penny wise, pound foolish?

The data for the charts were sourced from the Handbook on Civil Aviation Statistics and other reports published by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

Chart 1: Market share of select airlines measured in terms of passenger kilometres (figures in %)

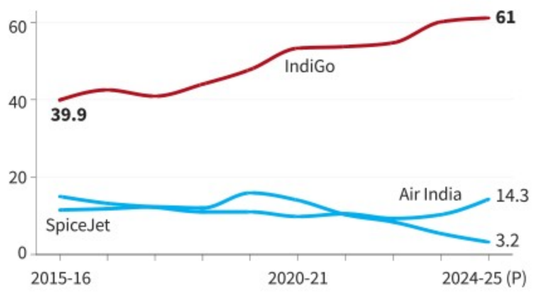


Chart 2: IndiGo's share in total pilots and total flying hours of all airlines. Figures in %

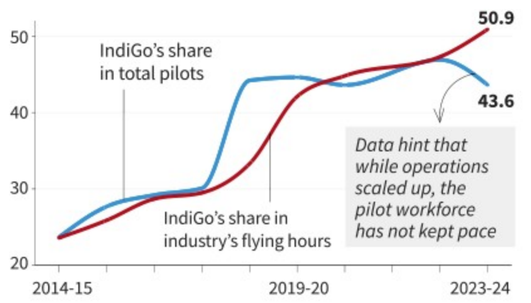
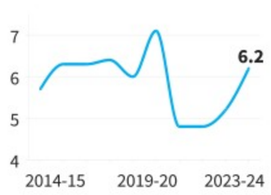


Chart 3A: Average expenditure incurred by IndiGo per pilot, annually (Figures in ₹ Million)



Figures in Chart 3A and Chart 3B include expenditure incurred by airlines on pilots and co-pilots

Chart 3B: Average expenditure incurred by airlines per pilot in 2023-24 (Figures in ₹ Million)

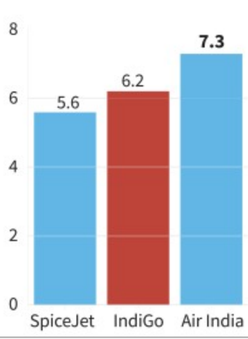
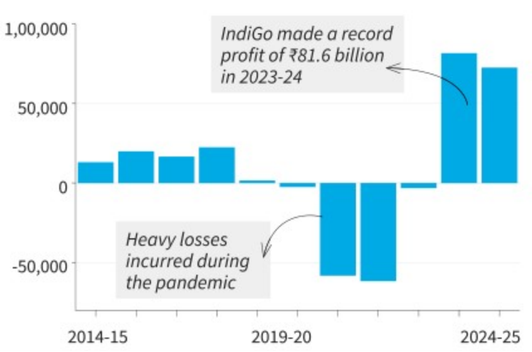


Chart 4: Net profit or loss recorded by IndiGo after income tax in the last decade (Figures in ₹ Million)



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 10, 1975

Delhi superbazar as model institution

New Delhi, Dec. 9: The Superbazar here, which is a premier consumer co-operative institution, will be developed further into an institution of national stature so that it can extend its services to cover a larger number of consumers, particularly the low and middle income groups, salaried workers and other vulnerable sections of the society.

The Central Government intends to make it a model for other Supermarkets. The Ministry of Civil Supplies is convinced that the Superbazar has a healthy influence on the market, and that it has been rendering service to the community by selling unadulterated quality goods at fair prices, besides eschewing malpractices like underweighment and tax evasion.

The Ministry, therefore, wants to strengthen the Superbazar and already additional financial assistance of Rs. 60 lakhs has been provided in the Fifth Plan outlay for its various development schemes which include the opening of a large department store, establishment of ten mini-branches, introduction of mobile van shops, setting up of consumer industries, and acquisition of business and technical equipment.

At the same time, the Ministry is also finalising comprehensive legislation for multi-State co-operative societies in the light of the recommendations made by an expert committee. The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal in principle and desired that the necessary draft Bill may be prepared and the State Governments also consulted. This process has practically been completed.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 10, 1925

Indian tea

London, Dec. 9: The Morning Post states that owing to the failure of Indian tea crop which is expected to be some twenty million pounds less than the last year, the prices of grades of tea at present being detailed at 18d and 20d per pound, will be raised to 2 sh in next few weeks.

The Daily Express understands that there is no ground for the report of the coming rise in the price of tea and says that although Northern India crop is eighteen million pounds, below last year's, stocks at end of October were 181 3/4 million pounds compared with 145 3/4 million pounds of same period last year.

From Page One

'Citizenship under CAA only if claims verified'

The NGO, in its petition filed through advocate Anish Roy, submitted that the proviso to Section 2(1)(b) of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) exempted religious minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, from being considered "illegal migrants". These communities were Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians. Section 6B of the CAA allows these persons to apply for grant of certificate of registration or certificate of naturalisation. The NGO argued that those who apply for naturalisation should not be deprived of citizens' rights and privileges.

However, the petition said the authorities had delayed the issuance of the citizenship certificates. This, coupled with the non-recognition of acknowledgment receipts during the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR), has created a serious constitutional crisis.

"The affected persons, already recognised by Parliament as persecuted minorities of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who entered India deserving protection and integration, are now exposed to the risk of statelessness, social exclusion and disenfranchisement," the petition alleged.

Chief Justice Kant said "You are claiming that you are entitled by virtue of these amended provisions in the CAA to become citizens of this country. But you have not been conferred citizenship so far... The amended provisions might have conferred some enforceable rights in your favour to seek citizenship, but each and every statutory requirement has to be determined, like, do you belong to any minority in that country; were you resident of the country of which minority were permitted to come to India; and in what capacity have you come to India.

The CJI said if the government has made a law, there would be a mechanism that would follow to implement the law.

Trump mulls tariffs on rice from India

Mr. Trump made his rice tariff comments during a White House meeting in which he unveiled a $12 billion package to support American farmers.

At a meeting in the White House, when a farmers' representative complained that India, Thailand and other countries were "dumping" rice in the U.S., Mr. Trump asked the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent: "Why is India allowed to do that? They have to pay tariffs. Do they have an exemption on rice?" Later, he said the issue can be solved "so quickly with tariffs" on these countries that are "illegally shipping" into the U.S.

According to data with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India exported rice worth $391.74 million to the U.S. in 2023-24, which makes up about 3.1% of India's total rice shipments. India exports rice to 179 other countries.

On the other hand, according to data from the World Integrated Trade Solutions website, India accounted for about 26% of the $1.6 billion worth of rice the U.S. imported in 2024.

"President Trump's threat to impose new tariffs on Indian rice looks driven more by domestic politics than by trade logic," Ajay Srivastava, former Director General of Foreign Trade, said.

Ease of life is a top priority for govt., Modi tells NDA MPs

Prime Minister emphasises undertaking reforms across all sectors to ease common man's life and ensure the public face no problems, says Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

PM Narendra Modi being felicitated by MPs for the NDA's victory in Bihar Assembly polls, at Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday told National Democratic Alliance (NDA) MPs that "ease of life" and "ease of doing business" were both top priorities for the government, and that his government was in a "reform express" phase, which was "not only revenue-centric but [also] citizen-centric", sources said.

Mr. Modi addressed the NDA's parliamentary party meet, the first to be held in the Winter Session of Parliament. NDA MPs and leaders felicitated the Prime Minister on the alliance's recent victory in the Bihar Assembly election.

"During the NDA parliamentary meeting, the PM told NDA MPs that people should not be troubled, [or] face inconvenience. Rules and laws are good, but in order to correct the system, it is not right to harass people," Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju told presspersons after the meeting in the national capital.

Focus on reforms

Mr. Modi spoke of how his government was rapidly going ahead with reforms, with a clear intent, sources present at the meeting said. "He said that reforms should be citizen-centric, not just focussed on the economy or revenues. The goal should be to remove the everyday hurdles of people so that they can grow to their full potential," the source said, adding that MPs were told to "share the problems faced by citizens" so that reforms could be modified. He also reportedly spoke of the need to "end the culture of 30-40-page forms and unneccesary paperwork" and "eliminate repeated data submissions". "He said the government trusted citizens by allowing self-certification, and that this has worked successfully for the last decade," the source added.

"All NDA leaders congratulated Prime Minister Modi for the NDA's victory in the Bihar elections. He guided all the NDA MPs to work for their respective constituencies. Prime Minister Modi emphasised undertaking reforms across all sectors to ease

PM's focus on ease in daily lives of citizens, economic reforms is significant in light of the IndiGo crisis

the public's lives and ensure they face no problems. The PM said that laws should help people. He also urged MPs to connect with the youth," Mr. Rijiju said.

Mr. Modi's focus on ease in the daily lives of citizens alongside economic reforms is significant in light of the aviation crisis.

Later in the day, Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu made a statement in the Lok Sabha on the Indigo airline imbroglio. "No airline, however large, will be permitted to cause hardship to passengers through planning failures and non-compliance with regulations," Mr. Naidu said.

The government was pursuing policies to encourage more airlines to operate in India and provide more choice for Indian consumers, the Minister said.

Security personnel conduct searches in Hutmurah forest as part of the Delhi blast probe, in Anantnag on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Red Fort blast case: NIA searches forest range in Anantnag

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Teams of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) along with the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday brought a terror accused doctor to a forest range in south Kashmir's Anantnag and arrested another local doctor from north Kashmir's Baramulla in the Red Fort blast case.

Officials said an NIA team was searching the Hutmurah forest area in Anantnag. The team was accompanied by Dr. Adeel Rather, one of the members of the inter-State terror module busted last month by the J&K Police. Another arrested youth, Jasir Bilal Wani, who is a neighbour of Dr. Rather, has also been shifted to Kashmir. Sources said the duo was shifted to identify possible hideouts in south Kashmir.

On November 7, an AK-47 rifle was recovered from Dr. Rather's locker at Anantnag Medical College, where he worked as a senior resident till 2024. Dr. Rather is among two local doctors arrested in the case and believed to be behind the blast that left 15 civilians dead on November 10 in Delhi.

Officials were also looking into the role of Dr. Rather's brother, Dr. Muzaffar Rather, who is believed to have shifted to Dubai earlier this year.

Meanwhile, the NIA said another key accused, Dr. Bilal Naseer Malla of Baramulla, was arrested in connection with the blast case.

SC slams EC's 'mechanical' replies to SIR-related issues

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday remonstrated with the Election Commission of India (EC) for giving "mechanical and cyclostyled" answers every time a human problem is presented in court by anxious voters about the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant voiced the top court's exasperation at repeatedly being witness to the EC trying to parry the practical difficulties raised in the court with figures and statistics on the number of enumeration forms that have been submitted and digitised.

The latest instance came while the court was hearing applications seeking an extension of time to submit the enumeration forms in Tamil Nadu.

The applicants said many people living in the hilly regions of the State were migrant workers, and many leave for their annual pilgrimage to Sabarimala and will only return by Pongal in mid-January. The enumeration phase, however, is set to end on December 11 in the State.

The EC's response was a blank statement: "99.27% enumeration forms were received and digitised in Tamil Nadu."

"For you, it is 90% and 97% every time a practical difficulty is raised in this

court. Your answers are always mechanical and cyclostyled," the Chief Justice berated the EC.

Another applicant submitted that 56 lakh people were yet to submit their enumeration forms in the State.

'Extension needed'

The hearing also saw the Kerala government seek a further extension of two weeks for electors in the State to submit their enumeration forms. He said that over 20 lakh voters were yet to submit their forms. The EC had earlier extended the deadline in Kerala from December 11 to December 18.

Here too, the EC responded by stating that 97.42% enumeration forms have been digitised in Kerala.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, for the EC, said the State's submission was "speculative", claiming that the poll body had its "fingers on the pulse" in Kerala. "We are monitoring," Mr. Dwivedi submitted. The court posted the case on December 18 to assess the situation to pass appropriate orders, if necessary.

Assam exercise

In a separate Bench headed by the CJI, the top court pointed to the special protective laws in place in Assam addressing the region's unique needs while hearing a petition alleging that the EC has discriminated against the State by not conducting SIR of its electoral rolls.

The court said it would hear next week the petition filed by Mrinal Kumar Choudhury, former President of Gauhati High Court Bar Association, questioning why revision of electoral rolls in Assam was only by way of "special revision" and not an SIR, as done in Bihar and 12 other States and Union Territories.

The petitioner relied on a report of former Assam Governor Lt. General S.K. Sinha and ex-Home Minister of Assam Indrajit Gupta in 1997 that there were "40-50 lakh illegal immigrants" in the State. The petition asked whether the SIR's avowed objective to protect the purity of the electoral roll did not apply to Assam.

Even the Supreme Court had raised the issue of adverse demographic impact in view of the presence of large illegal immigrants, especially in a case challenging Section 6A of the Citizenship Act.

IndiGo trims schedule, to cut 400-500 flights a day

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

IndiGo will slash 400 to 500 flights to fully stabilise its daily schedule, nearly double the number of cuts the government ordered after the airline's failure to allocate enough pilots after the new night-flying rules crippled its operations and led to the cancellation of hundreds of flights over the past week.

The airline will now operate 1,800 to 1,900 flights daily instead of 2,300 it was operating earlier, an IndiGo executive told *The Hindu*.

This implies that nearly 81,000 passengers a day will be affected until full capacity is restored, according to back-of-the-envelope calculations assuming 90% seat occupancy on its 180-seat aircraft. The airline did not provide any clarity on how long it would take to return to full capacity, but the executive said the airline would inform passengers about cancellations 72 hours in advance.

IndiGo's decision to curtail flights came even as Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu said in a post on X that the airline had been ordered to slash 10% of its flights. This was up from the 5% the government ordered earlier in the day. However, the final tally means IndiGo is slashing 17%-21% of its daily flights.

IndiGo chief executive officer (CEO) Pieter Elbers, who met Mr. Naidu on Tuesday, said in a recorded video statement before the meeting that the airline's operations had "fully stabilised, which means the flights reflecting on our website are scheduled to operate with an adjusted network".

The airline also said it was now flying to all the 138 destinations in its network, and its on-time performance (OTP) had improved to 85% to 90% of flights adhering to their arrival and departure slots; the figure had dropped to as low as 3.5% last week.

'Safety non-negotiable'

Earlier in the day, Mr. Naidu said in the Lok Sabha that the airline had been directed to restructure its operations and reserve crew capacity.

"No airline, however large, will be permitted to cause such hardship to passengers through planning failures, non-compliance or non-adherence

Passengers exit the airport in Kanpur, following the cancellation of flights to Delhi and Mumbai on Tuesday. PTI

to statutory provisions. Safety in civil aviation is completely non-negotiable," he said. The airline was also directed to ensure reserve crew capacity.

A four-member committee has been set up to inquire into the large-scale flight disruptions at IndiGo, and the airline's CEO and COO have been issued show-cause notices warning of enforcement action.

The planned cut of 400 to 500 flights by IndiGo will shrink passenger options during peak season and spike airfares, with competitors lacking spare aircraft to fill the void.

The last available monthly figures on the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) website for October show that IndiGo ferried 91.96 lakh passengers or 65% of the total 1.4 crore fliers. Extrapolated to daily figures, this works out to 2.96 lakh passengers per day in a month that witnessed a festive rush due to Dasara and Deepavali.

Back-of-the-envelope calculations – assuming a seat capacity of 180 per A320 aircraft, of which 90% were possibly sold – indicate that reducing daily flights from 400 to 500 would affect 65,000 to 81,000 daily passengers, who had probably booked their seats weeks in advance.

"In the middle of the high season for travel, just before the Christmas-New Year break, it is unfortunate that we have a situation where there will be a capacity shortfall on demand, resulting in a further increase in airfares," Aloke Bajpai, founder and chief executive officer of travel booking portal ixigo, told *The Hindu*.

He said other airlines would not find it easy to bridge the shortfall quickly. "We are already seeing signs of passengers switching back to train and bus as modes of travel, given how high the domestic airfares are getting," he added.

As the dominant player, IndiGo is the sole operator on 20 to 25 of the nearly 96 domestic destinations it serves. These include Allahabad, Kanpur, Bareilly, and Purnea, where travellers will have no alternative but to book a train ticket or travel by bus, industry insiders explained.

In its order directing the airline to cut flights by 10%, the DGCA has mandated reductions on high-frequency routes and those where IndiGo is the sole operator to boost competition and passenger choice. But rival airlines such as Air India Group, Akasa, and SpiceJet are themselves facing aircraft shortages due to post-COVID supply chain delays, making it unprofitable to shift capacity from trunk routes to smaller destinations during peak season. Booking close to the departure date is becoming more expensive despite government-imposed fare caps, ranging from ₹7,500 for a 500-km flight to ₹18,000 for distances over 1,500 km, as shrinking availability drives up fares 15 days before travel.

Inadequate norms

While IndiGo will refund cancelled tickets, taxes and fees paid to the Central Industrial Security Force and airports remain non-refundable. Indian compensation norms are woefully inadequate and don't cover additional costs incurred for new tickets at higher prices and hotel stays. Nor do they account for the hardship caused to passengers.

Under the European Union (EU) Regulation 261, in cases of denied boarding, delays of over three hours, and cancellations, passengers are entitled to automatic compensation of €250 to €600 (₹26,000 to ₹62,400). The amount depends on the flight distance and the delay. For delayed, damaged, or missing baggage, the compensation is €1,300 or ₹1,35,000.

CBI lodges FIR against Anil Ambani's son in bank loan fraud case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered separate cases against two Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani (ADA) Group companies, Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL) and Reliance Commercial Finance Limited (RCFL), on charges of bank loan fraud. Among the accused in one case is Anil Ambani's son, Jai Anmol Ambani.

On Tuesday, the agency conducted searches on the premises of Mr. Jai Anmol and other accused in Mumbai and Pune.

In the two cases, total alleged loan defaults involving all the lenders is worth ₹14,852 crore.

One First Information Report (FIR) is against RHFL, its promoters or directors, and unknown bank officials, based on a complaint from Union Bank of India, alleging criminal conspiracy, cheating, and criminal misconduct, and wrongful loss of ₹228.06 crore.

The second case is against RCFL, the then directors Devang Pravin Mody and Ravindra Somayajula Rao, and unknown bank officials. As alleged, they cheated Bank of Maharashtra to the tune of ₹57.47 crore.

APPEAL

I am Mohamed Arsath, 12 years old suffering from "T Cell - Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia". I have to undergo Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy for 3 years at **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research** Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs. 8,00,000/-. My father works as a sales person. Please help me to undergo the treatment as my family is very poor and we cannot afford this huge expenditure. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027.**
E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

Mohamed Arsath

Opposition seeks change in panel to select Election Commissioners

They say that it should include the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha; MPs also seek an end to direct cash benefits ahead of elections; poll body has no legal right to conduct the SIR, says Manish Tewari

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Launching a multi-pronged attack over electoral reforms in the Lok Sabha, Opposition parties on Tuesday said the Election Commission (EC) had no legal right to conduct the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The Opposition sought a change in the selection panel for the appointment of Election Commissioners to include the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha.

At present, the selection committee comprises the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and a Union Cabinet Minister named by the Prime Minister.

MPs of Opposition parties, including the Congress, Samajwadi Party, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, and Trinamool Congress, also sought an end to direct cash benefits ahead of elections.

Samajwadi Party MP Akhilesh Yadv speaking during a debate on electoral reforms in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. PTI

Congress MP Manish Tewari initiated the discussion from the Opposition's ranks. India had adopted universal franchise at a time when very few nations had it, Mr. Tewari said. The EC, he said, had been given powers under Article 324 with the hope that it would play a neutral empire. "There are many people who are feeling the need to discuss the neutrality of the EC [now]," he said.

According to the new 2023 law for the appointment of Election Commissioners, the panel to select the Chief Election Commissioner and the two Election Commissioners should comprise the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and a Cabinet Minister.

In order to remove doubts with reference to the EC, "It is my suggestion that two members should be added to this panel – the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, and the Chief Justice of India," the Congress MP said.

The EC has no legal right to conduct the SIR now taking place across the country as there is no provision for it either in the Constitution or in law, Mr. Tewari added.

The SIR, according to law, could only be conducted in specific constituencies after recording specific problems in writing, and thus the government must table in the House the issues with the current electoral rolls, the complaints the EC had received with regard to them, and what inquiry had been initiated, Mr. Tewari said. He also sought machine readable rolls for all political parties, and an end to direct cash benefits before elections.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said he agreed to most demands made by Mr. Tewari, and alleged electoral malpractices in the bypolls to the Rampur Lok Sabha and Milkipur Assembly constituencies of Uttar Pradesh.

"We gave the EC each and every incident report. But despite this, EC did not take any action. Then we understood that the EC is biased," Mr. Tewari said.

Calling for a return to ballot paper voting, he argued that if developed countries, including the United States and Germany, had not accepted electronic voting machines, why should India.

The EC's role should be impartial, but people had lost confidence in the panel, DMK MP Dayanidhi Maran said, adding that even politicians had started doubting the election body, which was changing the rules to suit only one political party.

Kalyan Bannerjee of the Trinamool Congress mentioned the alleged suicides by booth-level officers.

"If foreigners have come and the Border Security Force could not detect it, then it is the fault of the Home Minister and Prime Minister," Mr. Banerjee said on the EC's contention that the SIR was being conducted to weed out illegal immigrants in the list.

Rahul says BJP committing vote theft in collusion with EC to destroy idea of India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday accused the BJP of indulging in the "biggest" act against the nation by committing vote *chori* [theft] in collusion with the Election Commission (EC) to destroy the idea of India.

Mr. Gandhi, participating in a discussion on election reforms in the Lower House, said that the Narendra Modi government had changed the law to give complete immunity to the Election Commissioners for their decision, but added, "We are going to change the law and going to find you."

Describing Indian democracy as the world's greatest democracy, the Opposition leader asked three questions, which he said made it clear that the BJP was "directing and using" the EC to damage it.

As part of his suggestions, Mr. Gandhi called for providing machine readable voter list to all parties one month before elections, taking back the law that allowed destruction of CCTV footage after 45 days of poll, giving access to electronic voting machines (EVMs), and quash the law that allowed the Election Commissioners "to get away with whatever they want to do".

Rahul Gandhi

'Act against country'

Calling the alleged vote *chori* an act against the country, Mr. Gandhi said, "It is because when you destroy the vote, you destroy the fabric of this country, you destroy modern India, you destroy the idea of India. Those across the aisle are doing ...".

The senior Congress leader also asked why the Chief Justice of India (CJI) was removed from the selection panel for the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the Election Commissioners (ECs).

"I sit in that room. It is a so-called democratic decision. On one side, there is Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. On the other side, the Leader of the Opposition. I have no voice in that room. What they decide is what happens," Mr. Gandhi said, adding, "So, why are the Prime Minister and the Home Minister so keen on choosing exactly who the election commissioner is going to be".

Talking about the law that shields the ECs from being prosecuted for their decisions in office, Mr. Gandhi said "no Prime Minister has done this in the history of India".

"In December 2023, this government changed the law to make sure that no election commissioner could be punished for any action they take," he said.

In RS, Shah accuses Congress and Nehru of 'dividing' National Song

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, opening the discussion on the 150th anniversary of National Song *Vande Mataram* in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, said the "division" of the song, and the Congress's "politics of appeasement" had led to Partition.

Countering the Opposition's allegation that the discussion was being organised in view of the coming West Bengal Assembly election, he said such remarks were aimed at diminishing the importance of the song.

'Nine instances'

Several Congress leaders had insulted *Vande Mataram*, and ended its recital in Parliament, Mr. Shah alleged. Mr. Shah should authenticate his claim, Congress general secretary and Chief Whip in the Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh said. Mr. Shah later sent in a letter to the Rajya Sabha Chairman, citing nine instances from 2018 till 2025 during which Congress leaders allegedly insulted the song.

> Yesterday, some MPs in the Lok Sabha questioned the need to discuss *Vande Mataram*. The need for discussion...was as relevant when the song was written, during the freedom movement, [is as relevant] today, and will be as relevant in 2047
>
> **AMIT SHAH**
> Union Home Minister

Vande Mataram was the mantra that awakened India's cultural nationalism and energised the freedom struggle. "Yesterday, some MPs in the Lok Sabha questioned the need to discuss *Vande Mataram*. The need for discussion...was as relevant when the song was written, during the freedom movement; [is as relevant] today, and will be as relevant in 2047, when 'Viksit Bharat' will be achieved," Mr. Shah said.

The Minister did not name Congress general secretary and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who had posed this question during the discussion on the song in the Lok Sabha on Monday. The government was more interested in discussing the past than present issues affecting citizens, Ms. Gandhi had said.

He also accused the Congress and the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of "dividing" the song.

"On the 50th anniversary of *Vande Mataram*, in 1937, Jawaharlal Nehru divided it into two, and limited it to two stanzas. This was the way the Congress honoured the *Vande Mataram*," Mr. Shah said, leading to protests from Opposition MPs.

SIR of poll rolls is not new, several have taken place since 1952: Law Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Revision is necessary to address changes in the electoral rolls due to migration and urbanisation, he says

Countering Opposition charges with regard to the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Tuesday asserted that it is the Constitutional responsibility of the Election Commission to clean up the list of voters, pointing out that the exercise has been held multiple times since 1952.

Responding to the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's charge about the government changing the law regarding the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and fellow election commissioners (ECs), Mr. Meghwal said the government had created a framework following a March 2023 Supreme Court ruling.

Intervening in the debate on election reforms in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Meghwal accused the Congress of engaging in vote *chori* (theft) since the first Lok Sabha election, accusing the party of rigging the election through the invalidation of over 74,000 votes to ensure B.R. Ambedkar's defeat.

The Law Minister said the Opposition, including the Congress, blames electronic voting machines (EVMs) and the SIR for their repeated defeats, but fails to introspect on the reasons for their losses.

He reminded members that the Supreme Court had upheld the SIR exercise in Bihar and confirmed that the Election Commission had the legal authority to undertake the clean-up of the voters' list.

SIRs had been conducted multiple times between 1952 and 2002, but no such exercise took place in the last two decades, Mr. Meghwal said. A revision was necessary to address changes on the electoral rolls due to migration and urbanisation, which often led to electors being registered in multiple places, he added.

Also intervening in the debate, Union Minister and Janata Dal (United) MP Rajeev Ranjan Singh said that the Opposition parties questioned EVMs only when they were defeated in elections. "You won in Bengal, Himachal, and Karnataka; then the EVMs were correct. But in Maharashtra, Haryana or Bihar, the machines suddenly became faulty? People do not accept this double standard," he said. "The Opposition parties should take some free tips from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on how to succeed in elections," he quipped.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey added that EVMs were first introduced in the country by the late Congress PM Rajiv Gandhi, as a pilot project in 1987.

'EC not independent'

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) leader Supriya Sule said the Election Commission appeared to be part of the government, instead of being an independent authority.

"This is not healthy for any democracy in the world. It's shameful," Ms. Sule said.

2,167 Maoists surrendered this year, says Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that in 2025, security forces have facilitated the surrender of 2,167 Maoist cadre. The number of such surrenders since 2019 stood at 5,571.

The Minister said left-wing extremism related violent incidents had come down from a high of 1,936 in the year 2010 to 218 in 2025.

"Resultant deaths of civilians and security forces have also come down from the high of 1,005 in the year 2010 by 91% to 93 in the year 2025. From 2019, 1,106 Naxal cadres had been killed and 7,311 arrested and 5,571 surrendered. This shows that their capacity to engage with our security forces is completely eroded. Therefore, they have no option left except to surrender with weapons," he said.

In a written reply, he said the resolute implementation of the National Policy and Action Plan, 2015 had resulted in consistent decline in violence and constriction of geographical spread.

Debate on *Vande Mataram* attempt to divert attention from economic issues: Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Tuesday demanded that the Union government take up for discussion in Parliament economic and livelihood issues rather than dwelling on topics to "divert" the attention of people from real issues.

"When there are economic challenges in front of the country, then to have a political discussion on National Song *Vande Mataram* is just an attempt to divert attention," said the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, during a debate on 150 years of the National Song.

Mr. Kharge said Parliament could pay true homage to Bharat Mata by discussing and resolving the issues of common people. He alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was holding a discussion on *Vande Mataram*, keeping the West Bengal election in mind. Mr. Kharge said the discussion on *Vande Mataram* was to divert the people's attention from the real challenges such as economic issues, rising unemployment and depreciation in the value of the rupee and several social issues.

Mallikarjun Kharge

He said the country's influence on neighbouring countries was decreasing and China's influence was increasing. "Nepal is demanding investment from China. Bangladesh, with China and Pakistan, is participating in trilateral meetings. Beijing is openly pulling South Asia towards itself under its strategic plan," he said.

He said it had become a habit of the BJP to abuse the Congress and to target Jawaharlal Nehru and spoil his image, "which is impossible as he is the tallest leader of this country".

DMK MP Tiruchi Siva said the government should also acknowledge contributions of freedom fighters from South India. He urged the Centre to dedicate the next warship to the memory of freedom fighter Chempakaraman Pillai.

AAP leader Sanjay Singh said the BJP was not giving respect to the motherland as it was trying to hide its failures in the garb of nationalism. "The government is just trying to hide its failures and crimes behind the sloganeering," he said.

No deaths due to air pollution, says Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry informed the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday that there was no conclusive data available to establish a direct correlation of death or disease exclusively due to air pollution.

Minister of State for Health Prataprao Jadhav said in a written reply that air pollution was one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases.

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The Bid start date is : **08.12.2025 @ 18:00 hrs.** Last date for submission of bids through online is upto **07.01.2026 @ 15:00hrs.** For further details visit **https://etender.apgenco.gov.in** or by using the link through APGENCO website www.apgenco.gov.in contact No: 0866-2526802/306/320.
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Sd/- Chief General Manager/Projects, APCPDCL: Vijayawada

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E-Tender is invited for procurement of Potential Transformer of various voltage class. Bid documents can be downloaded from **10.12.2025, 12:00 Noon** and bids shall be submitted online up to **04:00 P.M., 07.01.2026.**
Visit the following websites - www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.
ICA- T25132(3)/2025

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NEW TENDER NOTICE
Two part tender is invited by Tiruvannamalai Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd., Tiruvannamalai for 59 **Milk Collection** Route Vehicles and 1 No's of Taxi for Milk Procurement & Input activities for **2 years** for **2025 – 2027** as detailed below.

01	Starting Date & Time for availability of Tender Form (Through Online)	**10.12.2025 - 10.00 A.M onwards**
02	Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Time	**19.12.2025 - 11.00 A.M**
03	Last Date & Time for availability of Tender Form (Through Online)	**30.12.2025 upto 10.00 A.M**
04	Last Date & Time for receipt of filled in Tender Form (Through Online)	**30.12.2025 upto 10.00 A.M**
05	Place, Date & Time of Opening (Through Online) Part. I Technical Bid	**General Manager - Office, Tiruvannamalai - 4. 30.12.2025 at 03.00 P.M.**
06	The Cost of Tender (Through Online Free), EMD, Tender Conditions and other details can be seen in the tender documents or it can be downloaded through **www.tenders.tn.gov.in**	

Place: Tiruvannamalai - 4.
Date: 08.12.2025 DIPR/6519/TENDER/2025
General Manager
Tiruvannamalai District Co.Op.Milk Producers' Union Ltd

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Tender Notice No.11.8/APMSIDC/2025-26 Dated: 08.12.2025
APMSIDC invites tenders through e-procurement platform **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** for Dr. NTR Vaidya Seva Universal Health Coverage Scheme (AB PMJAY- Dr. NTR VS) Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana - Dr. NTR Vaidya Seva Scheme Families. For detailed notification and further details, please visit the website **https://apmsidc.ap.nic.in & www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.**
APMSIDC will reserve the right to cancel the tenders at any time without assigning any reasons.
Sd/- Managing Director

INBRIEF

Goa nightclub fire: Blue Notice issued against owners

The Interpol has issued a Blue Notice against Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra, the owners of a Goa nightclub where a massive blaze has claimed 25 lives, to track their whereabouts, officials said on Tuesday. The Goa Police had approached the Central Bureau of Investigation for the issuance of an Interpol Blue Notice against the two owners of the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub in Arpora, where the incident happened on Saturday. The Luthras are believed to have fled to Thailand's Phuket, the officials said. Meanwhile, the Goa Police also detained another owner of the nightclub, Ajay Gupta ,in New Delhi, against whom a Look Out Circular had been issued. PTI

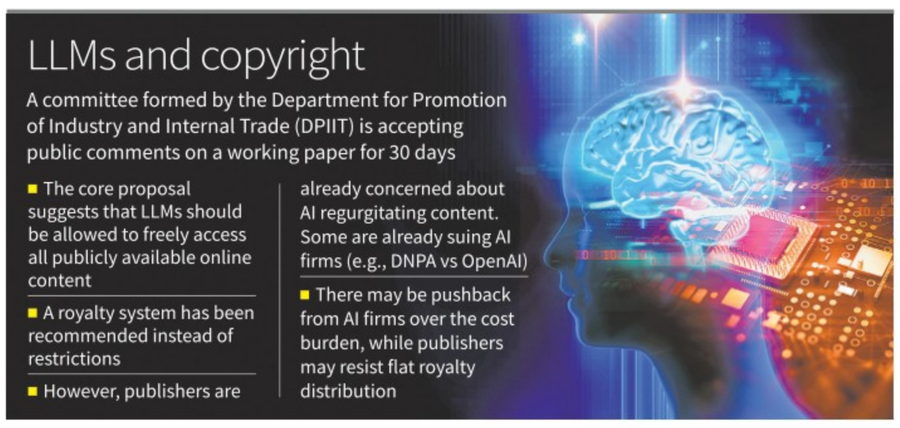
CPJ urges PM to address the matter of jailed journalists

Ahead of International Human Rights Day on December 10, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking to draw his attention to the matter of journalists imprisoned in India. The CPJ said the "continued detention and harassment of journalists risks eroding India's reputation as the world's largest democracy". "To mark International Human Rights Day, we ask that your government take steps to allow all journalists imprisoned in India to return to their families and continue their work without fear of reprisal," it said. The organisation urged the government to uphold its international and domestic human rights obligations.

Ensure free content access for LLMs, says working paper

It says data crawlers for training artificial intelligence models should not be restricted; instead a copyright society should be set up to collect royalties for members and non-members of body

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI


LLMs and copyright
A committee formed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is accepting public comments on a working paper for 30 days
The core proposal suggests that LLMs should be allowed to freely access all publicly available online content
A royalty system has been recommended instead of restrictions
However, publishers are already concerned about AI regurgitating content. Some are already suing AI firms (e.g., DNPA vs OpenAI)
There may be pushback from AI firms over the cost burden, while publishers may resist flat royalty distribution

A government working paper released on Monday suggested that AI large language models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT should, by default, have access to content freely available online, and that publishers should not have an opt-out mechanism for such content.

Instead, a copyright society-like non-profit should be set up to collect royalties for both members and non-members of that body.

The working paper, authored by a committee formed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), is not final, and is accepting public comments for 30 days. The document is one of the main indicators of how the Indian government is thinking of balancing copyright holders' fears that AI systems will regurgitate content they invested in without remuneration, and the interests of LLM developers who have routinely consumed massive amounts of data online to train their models.

Nasscom, which was represented in the DPIIT's committee, dissented, arguing that forced royalties would amount to a "tax on innovation", and said that "mining" or scraping the Web for data must be allowed for freely available content without paywalls, and that both "crawlable" and access-restricted content providers should have options to "reserve" their content from being mined for LLM development.

Opt-out not feasible

The committee rejected Nasscom's dissent, arguing that small content creators may not have the means to actually enforce such opt-outs.

The Digital News Publishers Association, which represents traditional news media outlets with a digital presence, including *The Hindu*, has sued ChatGPT maker OpenAI in the Delhi High Court for copyright infringement. OpenAI denies the allegations. The working paper argues that it may not be prudent to await the outcome of this and other similar litigation.

The recommendations, if put in place through a law, will eliminate any allegations of improper access to data, by blessing all access, provided a fee is paid. This model is similar to the "compulsory licensing" framework in place for radio stations in India, which are empowered to play music without negotiating rights for them, as long as a statutorily prescribed fee is paid to the rights holders.

This balancing may face pushback from AI developers and content creators; the former may argue against anything that increases development costs as few AI firms are even profitable at the moment, leaving little appetite to share revenues. Content creators may resist a flat fee if they feel their inputs are more valuable in training a model than those of other royalty recipients.

A payout to the copyright society set up for distributing AI riches to content creators, will be distributed by considering factors such as Web traffic and social indicators, like how respectable a publisher is. Any decision can be taken to the the court, the working group says.

SC asks Centre to give nationwide data on missing children

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

It directs Home Ministry to appoint officer to coordinate with States and Union Territories

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Union government to furnish six years of nationwide data on missing children and to appoint a dedicated officer in the Union Home Ministry to ensure effective coordination with the States and Union Territories in compiling such information.

A Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and R. Mahadevan was hearing a public interest litigation petition filed by the non-profit organisation Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan, which highlighted the rising number of children who remain untraced across several States. The court had earlier directed all States and Union Territories to depute dedicated officers to oversee cases of missing children and to ensure that such details are promptly uploaded on the Mission Vatsalya portal administered by the Women and Child Development Ministry.

Appearing for the Centre, Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati informed the Bench that all States and Union Territories had appointed such officers and uploaded their particulars on the portal. She noted, however, that the effective dissemination of information and coordinated use of the platform remained essential to securing meaningful outcomes.

The Bench observed that the Home Ministry itself had not nominated a dedicated officer to oversee cases of missing children, despite being the central coordinating agency. It accordingly directed the Ministry to appoint such an officer within two weeks and to upload the officer's details on the Mission Vatsalya portal.

"We find that the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Union of India has not appointed a dedicated nodal officer for cases of missing children for the purpose of Mission Vatsalya, and hence an officer may be nominated as a dedicated nodal officer, whose details may also be uploaded on the Mission Vatsalya portal," the court ordered.

It will hear the matter next on February 10.

Mamata rejects conditions given by Centre to resume MGNREGS in West Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Mamata Banerjee

In a dramatic rejection of the Union government's conditions to resume the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in West Bengal after a three-year gap, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday publicly tore up the Centre's note on the issue.

"This is an order from the Centre. I am tearing it up. I think it is an insult, disrespectful," the Chief Minister said at a public meeting in Cooch Behar district.

"Day before yesterday, we received a letter stating that starting December 6, we must submit a quarterly labour budget. They have imposed a restrictive condition. But where is the time to show it? This is December, and the election is due early next year. Then they said training has to be provided," Ms. Banerjee said.

The Centre had suspended the 100-day work scheme in the State in March 2022, alleging corruption in its implementation. Earlier this year, the Calcutta High Court had directed both the State and Union governments to resume the scheme from August 1.

The Supreme Court dismissed the Centre's appeal on September 27, directing that the scheme be resumed in the State.

Despite appeals by agriculture unions, however, the scheme is yet to be resumed.

At the public meeting on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that West Bengal does not want to depend on any mercy of the Centre. "I say this piece of paper is valueless. We will come back to power. Under Karmashree, we are providing 70 days of work. We will increase it to 100 days...," Ms. Banerjee said.

'Rise in global use of Aadhaar-like ID systems dangerous'

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

54 civil society groups and over 200 individuals criticise move in open letter

Fifty-four civil society groups and over 200 individual signatories have put out an open letter pushing back against the expanding use of Aadhaar-like digital identity systems in countries other than India.

The two-page letter was signed by organisations such as Internet Freedom Foundation; the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan; JNU Students Union; Safai Karmachari Andolan; and People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL). It was also endorsed by individuals such as former Amnesty International India chair Aakar Patel, activist Jean Drèze, and constitutional law scholar Gautam Bhatia.

The Centre has promoted digital identity systems such as Aadhaar around the world as a key plank of digital public infrastructure, a concept that India is promoting with both policy support and open source tools, such as those provided by the Modular Open Source Identity Platform (MOSIP). MOSIP, which was largely developed by the IIIT Bengaluru, does not use the same technology as Aadhaar.

Some countries engaged with MOSIP at various degrees include Morocco, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, and Uganda.

House panel tells govt. not to approve Eklavya schools until land is made available

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

With more than one-third of the sanctioned Eklavya schools for tribal children not yet functional, primarily because of land unavailability, a House panel on Tuesday told the Ministry of Tribal Affairs not to sanction new schools until land has been made available.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Tuesday tabled a report on the action taken by the government on its recommendations made earlier this year.

In this report, the panel noted that the unavailability of land for construction is a reason the Tribal Affairs Ministry is unable to spend a portion of its allocation for Eklavya schools.

It further noted that out of 722 sanctioned EMRS locations, only 477 had been made functional, out of which 341 were being run from their own buildings. In replies to the House panel, headed by BJP MP P.C. Mohan, the government cited the unavailability of land as a reason for over 130 schools being run from rented or other government buildings.

In a report tabled on Tuesday, the House panel said, "The Committee are therefore of the strong view that in future the proposal of setting up of EMRS from State Governments should be considered by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs only when they ensure beforehand, the availability of land required for the purpose."

The House panel also looked at the proposed upgrade of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) that were constructed under the older version of the scheme. The panel recommended that the Tribal Affairs Ministry come up with a timeline for the completion of this work.

The Parliamentary Committee, in its report, also took issue with the government's slow progress in setting up Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums across the country.

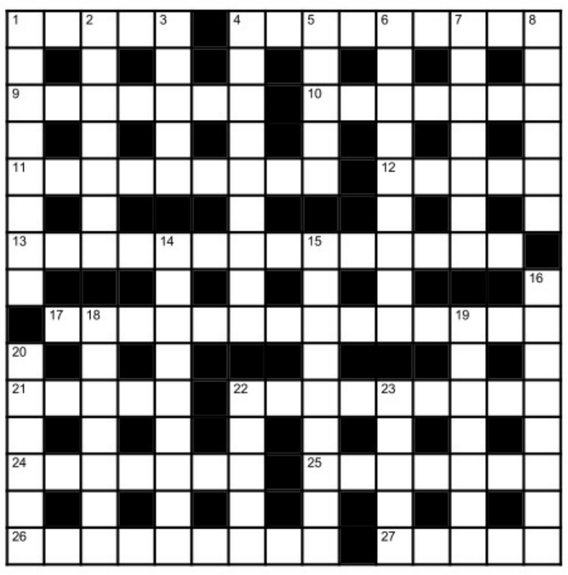
The panel had earlier noted that the government had inaugurated just three out of the 10 proposed museums to honour the contributions of Adivasi freedom fighters.

TH CROSSWORD + 14661

(set by Vidwan)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Retired Arsenal striker heading out to church for nothing! (5)
4 Oye Brutus! Cunning like some influencers on social media! (9)
9 Brothel keeper covering California road in olden days (7)
10 Edible bun, possibly unbeatable! (7)
11 Did we rant about an easterly gale? (5,4)
12 Swamp's cold, not hot after beginning of May (5)
13 Much more than full, paramour loses head, almost in nameless state! (14)
17 Cunning bold liar! Royal Scot linked to crafts and administrations of works! (14)
21 Path one gets into because life's hollowed (5)
22 Boisterous duet - "Hopes for Alabama" (4,5)
24 Cut fruit! Cut into small cubes! Cut in harmony! (7)
25 An Italian river flowing into a sea between Greece and Anatolia, cutting Europe at the highest point (7)
26 Bretton Woods institution regularly led by suppression in industry! (5,4)
27 South African returning a very hot kiss (5)

Down

1 Zee TV's some broadcast about local councils in Russia (8)
2 Left work at England to produce milk (7)
3 Protection carried by distinguished gentlemen (5)
4 Male King, one very softly interrupting your time of atonement (3,6)
5 Super, limitless and extremely nuanced reverse (5)
6 Epitomes of many without male companions (9)
7 Restriction on movement! So acquires a post-graduate degree! (7)
8 Observe itchy men regularly expressing rage (6)
14 Ale finished as foretold (9)
15 Miss having comfort and bit of buying/selling property and renting same thereafter! (9)
16 Abnormal loss of strength like in the afflicted adult (8)
18 Limited, lacking in hormone and not extremely rare (7)
19 Routine moves within the womb (2,5)
20 Who may blast pile of straw? (6)
22 Country house had a chapel inside (5)
23 Native American promise for English male, say (5)

SUDOKU

		6	7				8	
	7		3			1		9
5						3	6	
		3	9				5	6
		2	5		3	9		
9	5				6	7		
	2	5						1
1		9			7		4	
	6				1	5		

No.SS6726 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

P	A	S	T	O	R		T	A	I	L	P	I	P	E
	O		I		U		E		T		E		R	
T	R	A	N	S	M	I	T		W	I	S	D	O	M
	T		G		O		A		O		S		T	
P	A	G	E	T	U	R	N	E	R		I	D	O	L
					R		U		K		M		Z	
U	N	I	T	I	S	E	S		S	A	I	L	O	R
	E		A								S		A	
T	R	I	P	U	P		C	H	A	R	M	I	N	G
	V		D		O		O		B					
M	E	T	A		S	E	N	E	S	C	E	N	C	E
	C		N		T		D		C		T		H	
W	E	B	C	A	M		U	R	E	T	H	R	A	S
	L		E		A		I		S		E		R	
C	L	A	R	I	N	E	T		S	H	R	E	D	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	2	1	8	6	7	3	9	5
8	5	9	1	2	3	4	6	7
7	6	3	5	9	4	2	8	1
2	7	6	3	1	8	5	4	9
5	1	8	2	4	9	6	7	3
3	9	4	6	7	5	1	2	8
9	8	2	4	3	1	7	5	6
1	4	7	9	5	6	8	3	2
6	3	5	7	8	2	9	1	4

FAITH

Likes, dislikes and ignorance

We need to give up our desire for those things that are impermanent. Not only wealth, but our families too come under this category. Parents, siblings, spouse, children – these are connections we have in one birth. When life ends, who knows where the departed soul will be? It might take birth anywhere. If a relative acquires atma jnana in this janma, then that atma will attain liberation. In any case, our bonds with our families are not permanent. But the jnana that we get through the grace of God lasts forever, said So.So. Meenakshisundaram in a discourse.

Why then do we think in terms of me and mine? While it is true that even wealth can only come with God's blessings, we must not ask Him for riches. Arunagirinatha in his Kandar Anubhuti says he has had the good fortune of receiving jnana from Muruga Himself, who is the son of Goddess Parvati, the daughter of Himavan. The moment Muruga blessed him with jnana, Arunagirinatha was able to perceive a transformation in himself. He was no longer bound by attachments of any kind. Tiruvalluvar talks of three blemishes – *kaamam*, *veguli* and *mayakkam* (likes, dislikes and ignorance). He says that if you are without these blemishes, you will not experience sorrow. Thirumoolar too talks of these three undesirable traits in his Thirumantiram. He says that when he had rid himself of *kaamam*, *veguli* and *mayakkam*, and was searching for the Truth, he heard the pranava, like the sound of a bell. When he analysed the pranava, he found the Supreme Truth in it. In Kandar Anubhuti, Arunagirinatha says Murugan vanquished the three bad qualities and imparted jnana to him.

INBRIEF

China to limit access to Nvidia's H200 chips

Beijing is set to limit access to Nvidia's advanced H200 chips despite U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to allow export of technology to China, the *Financial Times* reported. Regulators in Beijing have been discussing ways to permit limited access to H200, Nvidia's second-best generation of AI chips, as per the report. Such a move would add hurdle to Nvidia and other top U.S. chipmakers' ability to address China market, after Mr. Trump's announcement appeared to settle a debate over whether these firms should keep their global lead by selling AI chips to China or withhold shipments. REUTERS

Indian-origin Arkin Gupta features in Forbes Under-30

Indian-origin Arkin Gupta has made it to the Forbes list of achievers under the age of 30 for his significant contributions to financial innovation and early-stage investment strategies. Forbes highlighted Mr. Gupta's pioneering work in developing data-driven investment frameworks and his leadership in creating scalable financial products as key factors behind his selection in the annual list. "This recognition reinforces the importance of democratising access to smarter financial tools," he said in a statement. Mr. Gupta is associated with several high-impact fintech initiatives. PTI

AvironiX unveils compact, backpack-size spraying drone

AvironiX Drones, a Chennai-based deep-tech drone company focused on precision farming and defence technologies on Monday announced the launch of its latest agricultural innovation, the AviSpray-10c, a compact, backpack-sized spraying drone 53% smaller than the current generation. According to the company, the drone is designed to significantly reduce the cost, operational complexity, and manpower requirements of drone-based crop spraying in India. The product was unveiled in the presence of M. Anand, CGM, NABARD Tamil Nadu.

Most retail investor money went to fund promoters in 2025

Growth in demat accounts and IPO issues coincide with each other in India, signalling a development of Indian retail investor, shows analysis

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

On a high: Men walk past a screen displaying market results outside Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) in Mumbai. REUTERS

The coinciding increase in demat accounts and companies listing in the stock market may be good for promoters but not so much for retail investors, according to an analysis.

The growth in demat accounts and the growth of IPO issues coincide with each other in India and this signals a development in the Indian retail investor, according to the How India Invest Report 2025 by Groww and Bain and Company. "Dematerialised accounts grew nearly five times over the last five years, because of a post-pandemic boom in IPOs," according to the report.

Likely to rise

This is only expected to increase and can even give an impetus to 1,000 companies listing in the next two fiscal years, the authors wrote. On an average over subscription from the retail investor was 30 times in fiscal 2024, as against 7 times in fiscal 2023 and just 4 times in fiscal 2022.

While the data establishes a retail investor enthusiasm, data on IPO structure suggest that most of the money went to promoters of the companies that listed in the market.

About 63% of the issue size between January and November 2025 (₹1.5 lakh crore) was offer for sale, based on calculations using data from Prime Database. This share was 60% in calendar year 2024.

Industry experts feel first breadth and depth of market needs to rise. "It (rise in use of proceeds for capex) will come once you get more people coming to the market," said Sid Swaminathan, MD and CEO of JioBlackrock Asset Management Company.

In India, Microsoft to invest $17.5 billion in 4 years: CEO Nadella

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Microsoft, a Redmond-based tech giant, has committed a whopping $17.5 billion, the largest investment ever in Asia, to help build the infrastructure, skills and sovereign capabilities needed for India's AI-first future.

This was announced by company CEO Satya Nadella on X, just after meeting Prime Minister, Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

Mr. Nadella posted: "Thank you, PM @narendramodi ji, for an inspiring conversation on India's AI opportunity. To support the country's ambitions, Microsoft is committing $17.5B, our largest investment ever in Asia, to help build the infrastructure, skills, and sovereign capabilities needed for India's AI-first future."

Commenting on the meeting, the PM said he had a "productive discussion" with Mr. Nadella and "India's youth would harness the opportunity to innovate and leverage the power of AI for a better planet."

Satya Nadella

India stood at a pivotal moment in its AI journey, one defined by impact at scale, determined to lead, Microsoft said in its own news post online.

"As technology becomes a catalyst for inclusive growth and economic transformation, the country (India) is emerging as a frontier AI nation.

"Against this backdrop of bold ambition and accelerating innovation, today we are announcing our largest investment in Asia – $17.5 billion over four years (CY2026 to CY2029) – to advance the country's cloud and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure, skilling and ongoing operations," the post said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	84,666	-0.51
US Dollar	89.87	0.20
Gold	1,31,600	-0.75
Brent oil	61.95	-1.46

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2245.20	29.00
Adani Ports	1497.20	16.70
Apollo Hosp	7091.00	-5.00
Asian Paints	2796.00	-132.30
Axis Bank	1275.90	2.10
Bajaj Auto	8961.00	-65.00
Bajaj Finserv	2069.50	10.30
Bajaj Finance	1016.70	-9.70
Bharat Elec	389.45	3.05
Bharti Airtel	2089.70	3.50
Cipla	1490.60	-7.00
Coal India	379.35	2.00
Dr Reddys Lab	1246.20	-20.30
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7123.00	-19.00
Eternal Ltd.	291.70	6.45
Grasim Ind	2746.00	1.80
HCL Tech	1657.60	-31.00
HDFC Bank	997.10	-6.00
HDFC Life	762.90	-1.15
Hindalco	812.90	-6.55
Hind Unilever	2306.50	-7.50
ICICI Bank	1375.20	-14.40
IntGlobeAvi	4967.50	44.00
Infosys	1599.00	-11.80
ITC	401.05	-1.25
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	293.20	-4.00
JSW Steel	1107.80	-11.30
Kotak Bank	2127.70	-3.90
L&T	3997.50	0.80
M&M	3635.90	-45.80
Maruti Suzuki	16020.00	-167.00
Max Healthcare	1074.70	-4.70
NestleIndia	1215.80	1.00
NTPC	319.85	0.35
ONGC	239.84	1.32
PowerGrid Corp	264.55	-0.65
Reliance Ind	1529.40	-13.60
SBI Life	2006.20	-14.50
State Bank	959.35	2.95
Shriram Finance Ltd.	846.70	12.45
Sun Pharma	1776.00	-20.20
TataConsumerProduct	1146.70	0.90
Tata Steel	160.67	-2.80
TCS	3208.30	-28.20
Tech Mahindra	1561.60	-30.20
Titan	3849.00	82.00
Tata Motors PV	344.70	-3.60
Trent Ltd.	4085.40	-5.10
UltraTech Cement	11414.00	-126.00
Wipro	257.41	-3.97

'Indian firms report 2nd strongest hiring outlook for Jan.-Mar.'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Employers in India project the second strongest employment outlook globally during the January-March period next year, with the Net Employment Outlook (NEO) at 52%, a report by ManpowerGroup said.

As per the ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook survey, NEO for first quarter of 2026 stood at 52%, a rise of 27% over previous quarter and up 30% from the year-ago period.

Better DPR planning can help save upto ₹17 lakh crore: Vector

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Up to ₹17 lakh crore across the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) can be saved by India through strengthening pre-construction planning – especially the Detailed Project Report (DPR) stage – a white paper released by Vector Consulting Group emphasised.

The study cautions that India's infrastructure ecosystem is stuck in a pattern where all stakeholders – government agencies, DPR consultants and contractors – operate with good intent, yet systemic design flaws make delays and cost overruns nearly inevitable.

The white paper, based on insights from CXOs of 16 major infrastructure companies (each with revenue of more than ₹1,000 crore) and 30 leading DPR consulting companies, finds most mid-execution disruptions stem from incomplete surveys, outdated baseline data, and insufficient design validation during the DPR stage.

Ashok Leyland rolls out compact engine line

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Hinduja Group flagship Ashok Leyland unveiled next-generation compact engines series at EXCON 2025 with higher performance and enhanced efficiency, said a top official.

India well positioned to build sovereign AI: AMD's Zacharia

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Thomas Zacharia

India is rightly positioned to build its own sovereign AI, stated Thomas Zacharia, senior vice-president, Strategic Technology Partnerships and Public Policy at AMD (Advanced Micro Devices), a Santa Clara-based tech firm that designs and develops high-performance computing and graphics processors.

"Sovereign AI is really about, determining, the future trajectory of how a country wants to be run. And to me, I think India is well positioned to do that. India has data as a major asset. And it has the computing infrastructure that comes as the building blocks in place," Mr. Zacharia told *The Hindu* in response to a query on his views on India's readiness for sovereign AI.

He was speaking on the sidelines of the opening session of Supercomputing India 2025, a five-day conference on quantum computing, high performance computing and AI.

PPP model

On the importance of building public-private partnership to build digital public infrastructure and also super computing, he said, "So, you want to create an ecosystem where everybody is contributing and therefore you progress at a pace that is faster than what anyone individual or a company."

India has done remarkably well in terms of building the digital public infrastructure, Mr. Zacharia commented adding, "India has defied expectations in terms of what's been accomplished."

Public good

According to him, the government can basically provide policy for public good, the government can provide demand signals, through both infrastructure programmes and also through funding mechanisms and both these are happening in India.

"I think India has the potential to continue to advance and become a major leader in HPC, AI and quantum computing. And. everything that I heard today at the Supercomputing Conference confirms my belief that India will be a major player in HPC," Mr. Zacharia further said, commenting on India's thrust on building super computing capabilities.

'India must define its own development trajectory'

Amit Bhelari

India must define its own development trajectory in a world marked increasingly by fractured alliances and strategic self-preservation, Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani said on Tuesday while speaking at the Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad.

The institution was celebrating 100th Foundation Day during which Mr. Adani delivered the keynote address.

Mr. Adani said that India must define its own development trajectory in a world marked increasingly by fractured alliances and strategic self-preservation.

He asserted that in the 21st century, true sovereignty would depend on a nation's command over its natural resources and energy systems. Reflecting on the institute's origins, he said IIT (ISM) was born from a farsighted national aspiration – an early civilisational understanding that a country cannot rise without mastering the strength beneath its soil.

"Master the resources below our feet, and master the energy that fuels our rise – these are the twin pillars of India's economic independence," he said.

Warning against "narrative colonisation," Mr. Adani said countries historically responsible for emissions now attempt to steer how developing nations pursue growth.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
HEALTH OFFICE, TTD, TIRUMALA **e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Health Office, TTD, Tirumala is inviting online bids from the suppliers / manufacturing firms for supply of Insecticides Items consisting 7 items. For further details see online e-tender document through below mentioned portal for the year 2025-26. Date of upload of Tender document **11/12/2025** and last date for submission of Tender document **18/12/2025.** For tender document log on to the website http://www.tirumala.org and http://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. For further details contact Phone Nos:0877-2263686 & 9866132451 and mail ID:ttdhealthoffice@gmail.com during office working hours.

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC(Adv.No.315) Dated: 09.12.2025 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
MS Building, Dr. B R Ambedkar Veedhi Bengaluru-560001

No: RD/383/RMF/2025 Dated: 08.12.2025

Notification regarding engagement of Technical Staffs/Modelers for the KWSRP- KSNDMC

Subject: Advertisement for details in engaging various Technical Consultants/Staffs/Modelers for the proposed Team Urban Flood Modelling for Water Management & Planning for Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) under Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Program (KWSRP) established in Revenue Department (DM) for implementation of World Bank funded Project. Timeline of Project Contract 2 Years.

The World Bank-funded Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Program (KWSRP) is being implemented across the State. The overarching objective of the Program is to enhance disaster resilience through a combination of structural and non-structural measures. The initiative seeks to develop climate-resilient infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of floods and droughts, while also strengthening disaster risk governance and resilience mechanisms.

The Revenue Department (Disaster Management) Government of Karnataka, invites applications from qualified and experienced professionals for the following positions:

I. Chief Urban Town Planner/ Environmental Planner (1 position)
ii. Chief Urban Designer (1 position)
iii. Chief Hydrological Modeller (1 position)
iv. Lead Hydrological Modeller (4 positions)
v. Hydrological Modeller / Data Analyst (7 positions)

The detailed terms of reference, eligibility criteria, and other conditions for engagement of the above positions are available in the Terms of Reference (ToR) and may be seen on the KSNDMC, website: **https://www.ksndmc.org/default.aspx.**

Note: a) Applications, along with the relevant supporting documents, should be submitted by email to **jsrdssp@gmail.com**, latest by **22.12.2025.**

b) Incomplete applications will not be considered. The Revenue Department (Disaster Management) reserves the right to reject any application without assigning a reason.

c) The qualified candidates will be shortlisted and called for interview for final selection. For any queries, contact - The Joint Secretary, Revenue Department (KAT, SSP and PP). **Ph: 080-22032010.**

Sd/- (G. Venkatesh)
Joint Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department (KAT, SSP & PP)

DIPR/CP/4307/SSC/2025-26

INDIANOIL LNG PRIVATE LIMITED
(A JV company of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd)
REGD OFFICE: Level 8, Indian Oil Bhavan, 139, Nungambakkam High Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 034, TN: Web: https://indianoillng.com

EOI No: IOLPL/2025-26/PT-02/Polymer Compounding **Date: 10.12.2025**

IOLPL invites bids from interested parties for partnering to set up **POLYMER COMPOUNDING Unit** in India through a Joint Venture Model.
Bid documents can be downloaded from our website from 10-12-2025 10.a.m onwards and Last date for submission of bid is 30-12-2025 5.p.m (both days inclusive).
Any Addendum / Corrigendum shall be issued on our website only and no separate notification shall be issued in the press. Bidders are therefore requested to regularly visit our website to keep themselves updated.
For clarifications, please mail to **ennorelng@indianoillng.in**

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064
Telephone: 080-28072761/63

E-Auction Notice No. RWF/GSD/WD-30/2025-2026/04 Dated: 08.12.2025

On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Material Manager invites E-Auction for the sale of scrap items (Ferrous/Non-Ferrous/Miscellaneous and Others), online through the website www.ireps.gov.in,

E-Auction dates : 08/01/2026, 20/01/2026 30/01/2026, 10/02/2026, 24/02/2026, 06/03/2026, 17/03/2026 and 25/03/2026.

The quantity indicated in the e-auction catalogue is only approximate, E-auction catalogue can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in or www.ireps.gov.in, before 7 days (Seven days) from the date of E-auction.

Dy. CMM / Depot

THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU
REWIND 2025
TRIVIA QUIZ
DAY 05

1. Which retired soccer star and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador visited a girls' residential school in Visakhapatnam in November 2025 to observe Project-Based Learning (PBL)?
2. Which band brought its 'Music of the Spheres' world tour to Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium in January 2025, drawing huge crowds despite reports of chaotic management?
3. Between September 21–27, 2025, which messaging app saw its downloads surge 185× in India following a government 'Swadeshi tech' push?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit bit.ly/Rewind2024TriviaQuiz take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. South Africa
2. Indonesia
3. Coffee Board of India

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Juhiwanki Pala, Shillong | 2. Namit Khurana, New Delhi | 3. Sadik Bilakhia, Mumbai

ISLAMABAD

IMF okays $1.2 bn for Pakistan from bailout, citing economic progress

REUTERS

The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday approved the release of $1.2 billion to Pakistan, giving the cash-strapped country a fresh boost as it works to recover from one of its worst economic crises in years. In a statement, the IMF said Pakistan has made "significant progress" in stabilising the economy. AP

NEW YORK

U.S. judge orders the release of Ghislaine Maxwell probe records

GETTY IMAGES VIA AFP

A U.S. federal judge agreed on Tuesday to unseal grand jury records from the probe of Ghislaine Maxwell, accomplice of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Judge Paul Engelmayer cited a Bill President Donald Trump signed last month requiring that all records regarding Epstein be released by December 19. AFP

JAKARTA

At least 22 people killed in office building fire in Indonesia's capital

AFP

A fire ripped through an office building in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, on Tuesday, killing at least 22 people, including a pregnant woman, police said. The fire, which broke out around midday, is believed to have started on the first floor of the building. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. AP

THE HAGUE

ICC sentences Sudanese militia leader to 20 years imprisonment

AFP

Judges at the International Criminal Court sentenced 76-year-old Ali Muhammad Ali Abd–Al-Rahman, a leader of the feared Sudanese Janjaweed militia, to 20 years imprisonment on Tuesday for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the catastrophic conflict in Darfur more than two decades ago. AP

S. Korea sends fighters after Russian planes approach

Agence France-Presse
SEOUL

South Korea said it had sent up fighter jets on Tuesday after seven Russian and two Chinese military aircraft entered its air defence zone.

The Russian and Chinese aircraft entered the Korea Air Defence Identification Zone (KADIZ) around 10 a.m. local time, Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. None of the planes violated South Korean airspace, they added.

Seoul said it deployed "fighter jets to take tactical measures in preparation for any contingencies" in response. The planes flew in and out of the zone for an hour before leaving, the military said.

Cambodia vows fierce fight as Thailand crisis worsens

Violence has left multiple casualties on both sides; while Cambodia reported seven civilian deaths, Thailand claimed that three of its soldiers were killed; the combat follows a Sunday skirmish

Associated Press
SURIN

Cambodia's powerful Senate President Hun Sen on Tuesday vowed a fierce fight against Thailand as a second day of widespread renewed combat between the Southeast Asian neighbors drove tens of thousands of people to flee border areas.

Fighting broke out following a skirmish on Sunday during which two Thai soldiers were injured, derailing a ceasefire that ended fighting over competing territorial claims in July. The five days of fighting then left dozens dead on both sides, and forced the evacuation of over one lakh civilians.

Fleeing for life: Evacuated Thai residents gather at a temporary shelter following clashes along the Thailand-Cambodia border. AFP

Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said on Tuesday that Cambodia had not yet contacted Thailand about possible negotiations and the fighting would continue.

"We've got to do what we've got to do," he said. "The government will support all kinds of military operations as planned earlier." He said on Monday that military action was necessary to safeguard the nation's sovereignty and ensure public safety.

In a statement posted to Facebook and Telegram, Hun Sen claimed that his country had refrained from retaliating on Monday, but overnight began to fire back at Thai forces.

Cambodia's military announced on Tuesday that the new fighting had killed seven civilians and wounded 20.

A Thai military spokesperson said that three soldiers have been killed.

Zelenskyy firmly refuses to cede any territory to Russia

Associated Press
ROME

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has reaffimed his firm refusal to cede any territory, resisting U.S. pressure for a painful compromise with Russia as he continued to rally European support for Ukraine.

"Undoubtedly, Russia insists for us to give up territories. We, clearly, don't want to give up anything. That's what we are fighting for," Mr. Zelenskyy said in a WhatsApp chat late Monday in which he answered reporters' questions.

"Do we consider ceding any territories? According to the law we don't have such right. According to Ukraine's law, our Constitution, international law, and to be frank, we don't have a moral right either."

Volodymyr Zelenskyy

In an interview with Politico released on Tuesday, U.S. President Donald Trump again pressed Mr. Zelenskyy to accept the U.S. proposal that Ukraine cede territory to Vladimir Putin, arguing that Russia retains the "upper hand" and that Mr. Zelenskyy's government must "play ball".

On Monday, Mr. Zelenskyy held talks in London with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz to strengthen Ukraine's hand amid mounting impatience from Mr. Trump.

Sticking point

U.S. and Ukrainian negotiators completed three days of talks on Saturday aimed at trying to narrow differences on the United States administration's peace proposal.

A major sticking point in the plan is the suggestion that Kyiv must cede control of the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine to Russia, which illegally occupies most but not all of the territory. Ukraine and its European allies have firmly resisted the idea of handing over land.

Cyclone impact sparks fresh calls in Sri Lanka to recast IMF agreement

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

As Sri Lanka reels from Cyclone Ditwah's devastation, calls to revisit the ongoing International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, which critics say imposes punishing austerity, are growing louder.

At least 638 people died – 191 remain missing – and millions were affected by torrential rains, unprecedented flooding, and multiple landslides that battered Sri Lanka late November. The climate disaster, one of the worst the country has witnessed, has dealt a sharp blow to the island's tentative recovery, three years after it declared bankruptcy amid a financial meltdown.

Last week, Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa urged the Anura Kumara Dissanayake government to renegotiate the IMF deal in the wake of the climate catastrophe, calling for immediate talks with the Fund to suspend or amend conditions that aggravate the people's hardships.

A UNDP study in 2022-23 found that the crushing economic crisis in 2022 had left over half of the island's population "multidimensionally vulnerable". Although Sri Lanka has since achieved relative fiscal stability, the condition of the country's poor – hit hardest by IMF-prescribed spending cuts – has worsened.

In the wake of the recent natural disaster, over 70 civil society groups and activists across Sri Lanka have called for renegotiation of the IMF deal, debt, and climate justice. "While a majority of people are reeling under austerity measures, including regressive tax hikes, subsidy cuts, and inadequate social security measures, the Government of Sri Lanka has become a prisoner of the ongoing Extended Fund Facility programme of the IMF," said their statement, issued on December 8, 2025.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake meets landslide-affected communities in Sri Lanka on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Urgent revision'

"The IMF controlling government spending not only restricts the ability of the government to respond to the ongoing humanitarian crisis, but severely impedes investment in infrastructure, recuperating livelihoods, and adapting to further climate change impacts," they contended, demanding an "urgent revision" of Sri Lanka's debt restructuring agreement, a "massive" debt reduction, a halt on subsidy removals, and an immediate standstill on current and future debt servicing for the country's recovery.

In 2026, the government must service debt totalling over $2 billion, while it tries to lift the country out of the deluge, whose full impact is yet to be ascertained. Some development experts have observed that recovery might prove harder than after the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004.

Recognising the challenge, President Dissanayake told *Newsweek* magazine in an interview published on December 8: "Initial estimates indicate that the damage may well be beyond any natural disaster that our island has endured. So we will have to service debt while simultaneously rebuilding from climate disasters. This is why debt sustainability frameworks for climate-vulnerable countries must change."

Weighing in on Sri Lanka's predicament, former President of the Maldives Mohamed Nasheed recently noted that the climate calamity makes it "impossible" for Sri Lanka to stay aligned with the IMF programme. "When Sri Lanka faced its financial crisis in 2022, the IMF approved a four-year Extended Fund Facility after months of negotiation. Yet the Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) failed to account for climate shocks," he said in a social media post, as the cyclone's impact began unfolding.

Not just Sri Lanka, but several climate-vulnerable, debt-distressed countries are in a similar plight. The Climate Vulnerable Forum – an international alliance of over 70 highly climate-vulnerable countries – has long called for reforming the DSA to properly value resilience investments and natural capital, and for a reformed G20 Common Framework that includes automatic debt standstills in response to climate shocks, said Mr. Nasheed, who is also the Secretary-General of the Forum.

Emergency financing

However, there are no signs yet that the Sri Lankan government may veer away from the IMF programme. In fact, the government has sought a $200 million Rapid Financing Instrument from the Fund. An IMF spokesman confirmed that Sri Lanka's request for emergency financing will take precedence over the scheduled fifth review of the ongoing Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

Meanwhile, activists have demanded that the government urgently prioritise equitable relief, focusing on economically and socially marginalised communities most affected by the disaster. "The highest [number of] casualties were reported from Badulla, Kandy, Kegalle, Matale, and Nuwara Eliya districts – areas especially prone to landslides and home to already marginalised and vulnerable working-class tea plantation workers," the Feminist Collective for Economic Justice, a network of feminist activists across Sri Lanka, said in a statement. Demanding universal social protection schemes, the Collective called for urgent negotiations with the IMF and other creditors "to cancel debt repayment and reverse austerity policies in this crisis context."

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GOING FOR IT

The wicket had a bit of spice and I had to be a bit gutsy, says Hardik

PTI

I had to back my shots. The wicket had a bit of spice and I had to be a bit gutsy. It was more about timing the ball. I was very satisfied with the way I was batting. The last 50 days, being away from loved ones, being at NCA, making sure all things were covered... it feels good when you see the results come — Hardik Pandya.

UP, UP AND AWAY!

Hardik is fourth Indian batter to reach the 100 sixes mark in T20Is

AFP

Hardik Pandya became the fourth Indian batter to clear the hundred-sixes mark. The milestone came during the first T20I against South Africa in Cuttack, where Hardik produced a match-changing knock. The all-rounder joins Rohit Sharma (205), Suryakumar Yadav (155) and Virat Kohli (124) in the list.

IN ELITE CLUB

Bumrah first Indian to complete a century of wickets in all formats

AFP

Jasprit Bumrah joined the elite list of bowlers who have completed 100 wickets in all three formats at the international level. Bumrah achieved the milestone when he dismissed Dewald Brevis in Cuttack. Bumrah (101 wickets in 81 games) is the second Indian after Arshdeep Singh (107 in 69) to scalp 100 in the shortest format.

MIXED FORTUNES

Hazlewood & Wood out of Ashes; Cummins set to return in Adelaide

FILE PHOTO

Injured Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood, *in pic.*, will miss the whole of the Ashes series. Meanwhile, Pat Cummins looks certain to return as captain in next week's third Test in Adelaide. England fast bowler Mark Wood will play no further part in the series and is set to fly back home. He will be replaced by Matthew Fisher.

Hardik returns in style as India crushes South Africa

The all-rounder's unbeaten 28-ball 59 takes the home team to 175; the Proteas lose the plot in the chase and slump to their lowest total in T20Is; Arshdeep, Bumrah, Varun and Axar claim two each

Impact player: Hardik's whirlwind knock gave the much-needed momentum to the Indian innings. AP

SA IN INDIA

Anirudh Velamuri
CUTTACK

Hardik Pandya's splendid effort left both the analysts and fans wondering if he overcame difficult conditions or made the most of a surface which got better. The proof was in the Protean pudding, with them succumbing to a 101-run defeat in the first T20I at the Barabati Stadium here on Tuesday.

South Africa's collapse put extra shine on comeback man Hardik's half-century, the all-rounder helping India recover from a spot of bother to set a 176-run target.

The visitor was eventually bundled out for 74 in 12.3 overs, its lowest total in the format.

Arshdeep Singh made early inroads with the new ball, his wide outswinger drawing an edge off Quinton de Kock. Abhishek Sharma made no mistake at second slip.

An inside edge was Tristan Stubbs' undoing, Arshdeep deceiving him with the wobble seam and Jitesh Sharma taking a low catch – a well-taken review sending Stubbs on the long walk back.

The introduction of spin further piled misery on the visitor, Axar Patel knocking back Aiden Markram's leg stump and ramping up the decibel levels. After that, it was a procession to the pavilion, David Miller and Donovan Ferreira falling in consecutive overs to leave South Africa five wickets down for just 50 runs.

Castled: Markram has no clue to this one from Axar. AFP

A googly from Varun Chakaravarthy then ended Marco Jansen's time in the middle while Jasprit Bumrah sent the dangerous Dewald Brevis and Keshav Maharaj back, crossing the 100-wicket milestone in T20Is in the process, as India cleaned up the lower-order to wrap up a comprehensive win.

Earlier, Jansen proved to be a troublesome firewall for India as the Proteas put the host under the pump to clinch early momentum.

Lungi Ngidi made the most of the pace-friendly red soil pitch, sending back Shubman Gill and captain Suryakumar Yadav.

Abhishek and Tilak Varma understandably dialled down cautiously.

The former tried to swivel the ball fine for four, but Jansen covered 11 meters in just five strides to take a brilliant catch off Lutho Sipamla's bowling to leave Abhishek and the Indian faithful picking their jaws off the floor.

With three wickets gone and the temperature dropping to 19°C, the partisan crowd needed something special to warm up to the fixture again, and Tilak duly obliged.

He picked a slower delivery from Anrich Nortje and walloped it over deep square leg, the ball sailing out of the stadium and into the night sky.

Just when India looked to be building momentum, Jansen slammed the brakes, sending back Tilak with an excellent catch at deep fine leg, backtracking and plucking the ball, just inches away from the ropes.

Pressure brings the best out of Hardik and India looked to him once more. He smacked two sixes off Maharaj to increase the run rate and ease frayed nerves. After losing Axar and Shivam Dube, Hardik and Jitesh drew 18 runs from the penultimate over.

Hardik's 100th career T20I six brought up his half-century, off just 25 balls, a quintessentially resilient blitz that set India up for a thumping win.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Abhishek Sharma c Jansen b Sipamla 17 *(12b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Shubman Gill c Jansen b Ngidi 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Markram b Ngidi 12 *(11b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Tilak Varma c Jansen b Ngidi 26 *(32b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Axar Patel c Ferreira b Sipamla 23 *(21b, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya (not out) 59 *(28b, 6x4, 4x6)*, Shivam Dube b Ferreira 11 *(9b, 2x4)*, Jitesh Sharma (not out) 10 *(5b, 1x6)*; Extras (b-4, w-9): 13; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 175.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-5 (Gill, 0.3 overs), 2-17 (Suryakumar, 2.4), 3-48 (Abhishek, 6.3), 4-78 (Tilak, 11.4), 5-104 (Axar, 13.6), 6-137 (Dube, 17.1).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Ngidi 4-0-31-3, Jansen 4-0-23-0, Sipamla 4-0-38-2, Nortje 4-0-41-0, Maharaj 2-0-25-0, Ferreira 2-0-13-1.

SOUTH AFRICA
Quinton de Kock c Abhishek b Arshdeep 0 *(2b)*, Aiden Markram b Axar 14 *(14b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Tristan Stubbs c Jitesh b Arshdeep 14 *(9b, 2x4)*, Dewald Brevis c Suryakumar b Bumrah 22 *(14b, 3x4, 1x6)*, David Miller c Jitesh b Hardik 1 *(3b)*, Donovan Ferreira c Jitesh b Varun 5 *(7b, 1x4)*, Marco Jansen b Varun 12 *(12b, 2x6)*, Keshav Maharaj c Jitesh b Bumrah 0 *(2b)*, Anrich Nortje b Axar 1 *(3b)*, Lutho Sipamla c Abhishek b Dube 2 *(5b)*, Lungi Ngidi (not out) 2 *(4b)*; Extras (w-1): 1; Total (in 12.3 overs): 74.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (de Kock, 0.2), 2-16 (Stubbs, 2.3), 3-40 (Markram, 5.1), 4-45 (Miller, 6.1), 5-50 (Ferreira, 7.2), 6-68 (Jansen, 9.5), 7-68 (Brevis, 10.2), 8-70 (Maharaj, 10.5), 9-72 (Nortje, 11.2).

INDIA BOWLING
Arshdeep 2-0-14-2, Bumrah 3-0-17-2, Varun 3-1-19-2, Axar 2-0-7-2, Hardik 2-0-16-1, Dube 0.3-0-1-1.

Toss: South Africa; **PoM:** Hardik.
India won by 101 runs to lead five-match series 1-0.
Second T20I: December 11, New Chandigarh, 7 p.m.

Sarfaraz, Shaw in the first set

IPL AUCTION

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Sarfaraz Khan and Prithvi Shaw, who went unsold in last year's auction, have been named in the opening set of players for the Indian Premier League (IPL) auction ahead of the 2026 edition. The auction is scheduled to take place in Abu Dhabi on December 16.

Going unsold
Sarfaraz found no bidders last IPL while Shaw, dropped by Mumbai midway through the previous domestic season before being passed over by the franchises, has since moved to Maharashtra.

The shift has worked for Shaw as he has rediscovered consistency with the bat and displayed noticeable improvement in his fitness.

Both Sarfaraz and Shaw now feature in the first set of capped batters with a base price of ₹75 lakh. They are grouped with Devon Conway, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Cameron Green, and David Miller – each carrying a base price of ₹2 crore.

Notably, Green – the Australian all-rounder – has been listed only as a batter for the auction.

Final list
The final auction list was released by the IPL authorities on Tuesday morning, just a week before the auction.

The pool features 350 players – 240 Indians and 110 overseas cricketers – with a maximum of 77 slots available.

The second set includes Venkatesh Iyer (base price ₹2 crore) – the high-priced all-rounder released by Kolkata Knight Riders – along with Deepak Hooda (₹75 lakh) and five high-profile overseas all-rounders.

Of the 350 names, 40 have opted for the highest base price bracket of ₹2 crore while 227 uncapped domestic players have fixed their base price at ₹30 lakh – the lowest among the eight brackets.

SNAPSHOTS

India and Hong Kong begin with facile wins

CHENNAI: Second seed India opened its campaign with a comprehensive 4-0 win over debutant Switzerland in the World Cup squash at the Express Avenue Mall here on Tuesday.

The results: Pool A: Hong Kong bt Korea 4-0 (Henry Leung bt Youngjo Ko 7-3, 3-7, 7-6, 7-2; Tomato Ho bt Eum Hwayeong 7-3, 7-6, 7-5; Tsz Kwan Lau bt Jeongmin Ryu 7-2, 7-5, 7-2; Ka Yil Lee bt Song Chaewon 7-3, 5-7, 7-5, 7-2;

Pool B: India bt Switzerland 4-0 (Velavan Senthilkumar bt Robin Gadola 7-6, 7-6, 7-5; Anahat Singh bt Celine Walser 7-1, 7-4, 7-2; Abhay Singh bt Loual Hafez 7-0, 7-5, 7-3; Joshna Chinappa bt Stella Kaufmann 7-1, 5-7, 7-2, 7-0).

Pool D: Japan bt Iran 4-0 (Tomotako Endo bt Pouya Shafiefard 7-3, 7-1, 7-0; Satomi Watanabe bt Fereshteh Eghtedari 7-4, 3-7, 3-7, 7-4, 7-1; Ryunosuke Tsukue bt Sepehr Etemarpour 7-2, 7-2, 7-0; Akari Midorikawa bt Fatemeh Falahati 4-7, 7-3, 7-3, 7-2).

Kamalini, Vaishnavi get maiden India call-up

G. Kamalini and Vaishnavi Sharma on Tuesday got their maiden call-ups to the India women's team for the upcoming five-match T20I series against Sri Lanka at home.

Easily done: Anahat dispatched Walser in straight games. R. RAGU

While 17-year-old wicketkeeper-batter Kamalini has featured in nine matches for the Mumbai Indians in Women's Premier League, Vaishnavi, 19, was not drafted into the WPL auctions.

Kamalini and Vaishnavi came in place of Radha Yadav and Uma Chhetri.

The squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-capt.), Deepti Sharma, Sneh Rana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Harleen Deol, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Gaud, Renuka Singh Thakur, Richa Ghosh (wk), G. Kamalini (wk), Sree Charani, and Vaishnavi Sharma.

The schedule: Dec 21 and 23 (both at Visakhapatnam); Dec 26, 28 and 30 (all three at Thiruvananthapuram).

India gets the better of Uruguay in shootout

SANTIAGO: Goalkeeper Nidhi thwarted two attempts as India edged Uruguay 3-1 in the shootout after the teams were tied 1-1 at regulation time in the FIH Junior Women's World Cup here on Tuesday.

India was on course for victory, thanks to Manisha's 19th-minute effort, before a penalty stroke conversion by Justina Arregui five seconds from the end forced the shootout.

A well-earned spot in the Candidates for Pragg

CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Of India's unusually large number of disappointments at the recent Chess World Cup in Goa, R. Praggnanandhaa was the biggest. The third seed was knocked out in the fourth round by Russia's Daniil Dubov.

Praggnanandhaa had contested the final in the last World Cup, and was on the cusp of qualifying for the Candidates tournament through the FIDE Circuit. His early exit was a double blow – a top three finish at the World Cup would have also ensured his ticket for Cyprus, which will host the Candidates in March-April next year.

The poor show at Arpora meant the 20-year-old could no longer quite take the FIDE Circuit for granted. So he chose to play at the London Chess Classic, and went on to share the top prize in the Open section of the tournament. That would prove enough for him to win the Circuit; his nearest rival, Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov, who shared the top prize in London Classic's Elite tournament with a round to spare, now could not catch up with him, even if he were to reproduce that kind of form at the World Rapid and Blitz championship in Doha late this month.

All to play for: If Praggnanandhaa wins the Candidates, he will take on defending champion Gukesh for the World title. FILE PHOTO

So Praggnanandhaa has kept alive hopes of an all-India – or an all-Chennai – fight for the next World championship. If he wins the Candidates, he will take on the defending champion D. Gukesh in the World title match.

To win the Candidates will not be easy, of course. The tournament features some of the strongest players, including the World No. 2 and No. 3 from the USA, Hikaru Nakamura and Fabiano Caruana, No. 8 Anish Giri of the Netherlands and China's Wei Yi, No. 9. Jovakhir Sindarov (Uzbekistan), Andrey Esipenko (Russia) and Matthias Bluebaum complete the line-up for the double round-robin league of eight men.

Some of them may be stronger than him, but they all know Praggnanandhaa is a tough customer.

His next tournament is the Global Chess League in Mumbai, starting on December 14. He is playing for Alpine SG Pipers.

INBRIEF

TN bags 'Best State Promoting Sports Development' honour

Tamil Nadu was on Tuesday named 'Best State Promoting Sports Development' at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Sports Business Awards in Chennai. Haryana Steelers, KIIT, Shiv Naresh, and Manoj Badale were among the winners of the ceremony that recognised excellence, innovation, and leadership across India's sports industry. Convened in collaboration with the Sports Ministry, the conference brought together leading voices from the government, industry stakeholders, sports federations, technology innovators, and athlete support organisations.

Dembele, Chevalier to miss PSG's match against Bilbao

Ousmane Dembele and goalkeeper Lucas Chevalier will miss Paris Saint-Germain's trip to Athletic Bilbao in the Champions League on Wednesday. PSG said Dembele is sick while Chevalier is still recovering from ankle injury. PSG will also still be without Achraf Hakimi.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SCHEDULE

Villarreal vs. FC Copenhagen; Qarabag FK vs. Ajax (both matches at 11.15 p.m. on Wednesday).
Dortmund vs. FK Bodø/Glimt; Leverkusen vs. Newcastle United; Benfica vs. Napoli; Juventus vs. Pafos; Club Brugge vs. Arsenal; Athletic Bilbao vs. Paris Saint-Germain; Real Madrid vs. Manchester City (all matches at 1.30 a.m. on Thursday).

Inaugural Total World Chess Championship announced

World champions and World rapid and blitz champions will be among the 24 players who will make up next year's pilot edition of Total World Chess Championship Tour, a new tour jointly organised by FIDE and Norway Chess. World champions D. Gukesh and Ju Wenjun have already qualified. Others will be picked from the Rapid and Blitz Worlds, Candidates (open and women) and FIDE Circuit; top players based on FIDE rating will also be included. The tour will be played across the three formats and thetour carries a prize fund of $750,000 for each of the three events, besides $450,000 for finals.

LIVE TELECAST

Hockey: Junior World Cup, SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 12.30, 3, India vs Argentina, 5.30 & 8 p.m.
Tennis Premier League: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 4.30 p.m..
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3 & LIV, 11.15 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Thursday).
West Indies vs New Zealand: 2nd Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 3.30 a.m. (Thursday).

Germany primed to extend its reign

The defending champion, which has been excellent both in attack and defence and efficient with its penalty corner conversions, would be quite a handful for a Spanish outfit that has shown tactical adaptability rather than relying on a one-dimensional approach

HOCKEY

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Germany has been nothing short of a force of nature at the FIH junior men's hockey World Cup. Unrelenting in attack, rock-solid in defence, and efficient – if not exceptional – in penalty-corner conversions, the defending champion has looked a class apart.

In contrast, Spain, it's opponent in Wednesday's final, has appeared less convincing across these departments. It doesn't take a Nostradamus to see Germany, the seven-time champion, as the favourite when the two European sides clash.

Yet Spain, appearing in its maiden final after bronze-medal finishes in 2005 and 2023, has shown tactical adaptability, mixing open play attacks with set-piece opportunities rather than relying on an one-dimensional approach.

Head coach Oriol Puig Torras acknowledged the challenge. "Germany, for me, is the best team in the tournament. It's a very good side with structure. But it's only one match – a final. We need to come out with our best version," he said.

Frailties

Spain's defensive frailties were exposed in the quarterfinal against New Zealand, when a 3-0 lead was nearly erased before Bruno Avila's late penalty-corner winner. The semifinal against Argentina was tighter, with Albert Serrahima scoring the decisive goal. Spain did not dominate but controlled the key moments.

Germany has mostly pressed high, forced turnovers, and created repeated circle entries, culminating in the demolition of India in the semifinals. Against France, it struggled in defence, but came back strongly to win thus showing its mental fortitude. Mirko Stenzel and Johannes Schmitz, Germany's co-coaches, said one of the team's biggest strengths is it doesn't look back.

"It's a different World Cup campaign this time with different players. We don't look back. The full focus in every game is so huge and I think it's the biggest difference between us and other teams," they said.

On taking on Spain, Stenzel said: "We've played them twice in this summer in Berlin and we saw what their qualities were. For us, it's no surprise that they are in the final now," he said.

India, meanwhile, will look to salvage its pride when it plays Argentina for the bronze medal.

Bonding well: Germany has thrived, thanks to great cohesion as a team. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Manchester United hunts down Wolves

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
WOLVERHAMPTON

Manchester United climbed back into the race to qualify for the Champions League as Bruno Fernandes inspired a 4-1 rout of woeful Wolves on Monday.

Ruben Amorim's side recovered from a disappointing draw with lowly West Ham last week thanks to Fernandes' double and goals from Bryan Mbeumo and Mason Mount at Molineux.

Jean-Ricner Bellegarde had cancelled out Fernandes' opener with Wolves' first goal in six games in all competitions.

In Italy, Christian Pulisic scored twice in 10 minutes as AC Milan came from behind to edge Torino 3-2 to move to the summit of Serie A.

The results: Premier League: Wolves 1 (Bellegarde 45+2) lost to Manchester United 4 (Fernandes 25, 82-pen, Mbeumo 51, Mount 62).
Serie A: Pisa 0 lost to Parma 1 (Benedyczak 40-pen); Udinese 1 (Piotrowski (65) lost to Genoa 2 (Malinovskyi 34-pen, Norton-Cuffy 83); Torino 2 (Vlasic 10-pen, Zapata 17) lost to AC Milan 3 (Rabiot 24, Pulisic 67, 77).

Hit-man: Fernandes fires in his second and United's fourth goal from the penalty spot. AFP

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Delhi beats Karnataka, enters final of BCCI under-23 Women's T20 Trophy

P. Saloni's unbeaten half-century (51 n.o.) went in vain as Karnataka lost to Delhi by 10 runs in the semifinals of the BCCI under-23 Women's T20 Trophy match in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.
The scores (semifinal): Delhi 143/8 in 20 overs bt Karnataka 133 in 19.3 overs (P. Saloni 51 n.o.).

Karnataka gains lead in drawn game against Madhya Pradesh

Karnataka secured a 22-run first-innings lead over Madhya Pradesh, and the resultant three points, in the BCCI Vijay Merchant under-16 Trophy match in Raipur on Tuesday.
The scores: Madhya Pradesh 292 in 94 overs & 149/4 decl. in 31 overs (Kushagra Nagar 79) drew with Karnataka 314 in 105.1 overs (Rohith Reddy 71, Aaryansinh Chavda 67, J. Sukruth 49) & 65 for one in 22 overs.

Akshah scalps five

Akshah Prabhakar's five-wicket haul (5/35) helped Karnataka bowl Odisha out for 170 on day one of their Cooch Behar under-19 Trophy match here in Balangir, Odisha, on Tuesday.
The scores: Odisha 170 in 58.4 overs (Akshath Prabhakar 5/35) vs. Karnataka 50/1 in 17 overs.

TT championships

BENGALURU: The CVL Shastry Memorial Karnataka State table tennis championships will be held from December 17 to 21 at Canara Union, Malleshwaram.
Entries close on December 13 (8 p.m.) and the same can be registered at *https://karnatakatabletennis.web.app/auth/login*.
For more details, call: Sanjay (9448485357).

FC Mangalore posts win

FC Mangalore beat Revive FC 2-0 in the BDFA A-division league football championship here on Tuesday.
The results: FC Mangalore 2 (P.A. Hafis 57, 80+4) bt Revive FC 0.
ADE FC 1 (Budiram Hansdah 63) drew with South India FC 1 (Moriangthem Haikhombam Singh 65).
Juno FC 1 (G. Prithvi 16) drew with William FC 1 (A. Dhananjaya 23).

Same number of ATP Challengers, but different prize pools

TENNIS

Nihit Sachdeva
CHENNAI

India is set to host four ATP Challenger Tour events for the third season in a row, albeit with significant changes in schedule, prize money and ranking points.

In 2025, the series began on February 3 in Chennai where the total prize money was $160,000. It was followed by the ones in Delhi ($100,000; 75 ranking points for the champion), Pune ($160,000; 100 ranking points) and Bengaluru ($200,000; 125 ranking points) in successive weeks. Across the four Challenger events, Indian players managed to win just one out of 13 singles matches in the main draw.

As per the revised ATP calendar released on December 4, the 2026 season for the second tier of men's tennis will open in Bengaluru on January 5. The event will offer 125 ranking points and more prize money ($225,000) this time.

However, the Chennai Challenger, scheduled to begin on February 9, will have a reduced prize pool of $63,000 (50 ranking points).

The Delhi Open, starting on February 16, will have a slightly increased prize pool ($107,000) and 75 ranking points while the Pune leg, beginning on February 23, will have a drop in prize money ($107,000) and 75 ranking points.

Sunder Iyer, hony. secy., Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association, explained the reason behind the reduced prize money for Chennai and Pune.

"In 2025, all four tournaments in India received significant monetary help from ATP. For the next season, they have selected a different country for it. They will still support us but the monetary assistance has been reduced," said Sunder.

Bazball is worth saving — a call England must make despite losses

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

If Bazball is dead – and obituaries are being written furiously –- it would be a pity. England didn't invent the attacking, free flowing style nor are they the first team to display a passion for the game that seems to go beyond victory and defeat. The great West Indies teams of the past played cricket with similar enthusiasm, each player expressing himself.

However, Bazball seems un-English in the land of Geoff Boycott and Alastair Cooke, defensive batters of great skill but all too aware that cricket was livelihood and caution mattered above all.

Skipper Ben Stokes and coach Brendon 'Baz' McCullum see cricket as entertainment, feel they owe something to the spectators, thoughts that would not have occurred to earlier generations. It probably helped that they were both born in New Zealand, the land of bungee-jumping and zorbing where it is difficult to take sports too seriously.

According to Michael Brearley, England's high priest as successful captain and psychoanalyst, Bazball was born out of depression. Stokes came through a court case (for affray), the death of his father and injury while McCullum, who had lost interest in the game at one time was keen on players re-discovering the simple joys of playing it. An awareness that asked, like Eliot, "Where is the life we have lost in living?"

Working brilliantly

In Bazball, players "ran towards the danger"; failure didn't mean excommunication. It has succeeded in its three and a half years now despite the skepticism of those who believed it was all a con. Opponents couldn't put a finger on what Bazball was, and sometimes neither could England. But it worked brilliantly, with England winning Tests with fabulous fourth-innings chases against Pakistan, New Zealand, India. The sight of Joe Root reverse scooping fast bowlers for six seemed to give Bazball the final stamp of approval from one of the greats who swore by established technique.

Perhaps Bazball is best enjoyed by those who have no skin in the game. It is glorious cricket for those outside England who are not so invested in the result. Would an Indian batter be forgiven for getting out repeatedly because he kept making the same mistake although on other occasions the identical shot fetched tons of runs and encomiums?

To enjoy, even encourage an approach when it works but call it 'stupid' when it fails is bad faith.

And now Bazball is teetering. England's approach in the Ashes series – it has taken Australia less than six playing days to go two-up – has seen to that. It hasn't helped that while England ignored some of the traditional methods of preparing, like playing matches, McCullum has spoken of the team's 'over-preparation' that led to the defeats. For a coach who rejects theories, that might be a theory too far.

In the day-night Test at Brisbane, England lost 15 wickets to balls that could have been left alone. Bazball has given batters like the hugely talented Harry Brook a leeway that was denied someone like David Gower in his time. Gower, who failed the same way he succeeded often paid for the failure. Brook, like his team, knows there is a lack of consequence now. This belief can be heady. Entertaining and reviving Test cricket is all fine, the home critics say, but the essence of competition is victory. A dull win for many is preferable to an exciting loss.

Make a choice

McCullum and Stokes have to make a choice. It is easy to stick to a philosophy when it's working. When it isn't, do you continue to put your faith in it, or tweak it so the players whose game isn't suited to it – Ollie Pope is a good example – are given the leeway to play in the manner they are most comfortable with? My way or the highway? Or unity in diversity? India's two series wins in Australia were founded on the latter. As Brearley pointed out years ago, a cricket team works by dint of differentiation, the skills and temperaments diverse. Not like a rowing team where everyone moves the same way.

Bazball has brought a freshness to contemporary cricket, and revealed greater possibilities. To throw it in the fireplace now and leave the Ashes in Australia would be a shame.

RAVI GARYALI

17/07/1952 – 05/12/2025

Passed away peacefully surrounded by family. Cherished and loved for his warmth, humour and ability to make everyone feel valued. A dynamic business leader whose energy and vision inspired others. To his family, friends and IPI Team, he was a source of love, joy and encouragement. His presence filled every room, and his kind soul left an impression that will endure.

Survived by: Vita (wife) and Children: Sameer, Kabir and Kimberley, who will continue to honour his legacy.

MEMORIAL SERVICE
13th December 2025, 06:00 PM onwards
at
ISKON TEMPLE
Bhakti Vedanta Swami Rd, Akkarai, Sholinganallur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600115